



MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP **12¢**

# *the* AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IND.

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

21  
FEB.







"WHERE FLIES  
THE BEETLE...!"

GUEST-  
STARRING

# The HUMAN TORCH



ANOTHER MIGHTY MILESTONE IN THIS,  
**THE MARVEL AGE  
OF COMICS!**

DELICIOUSLY WRITTEN BY:  
**STAN LEE**  
DELIRIOUSLY ILLUSTRATED BY:  
**STEVE DITKO**  
DELIGHTFULLY LETTERED BY:  
**S. ROSEN**



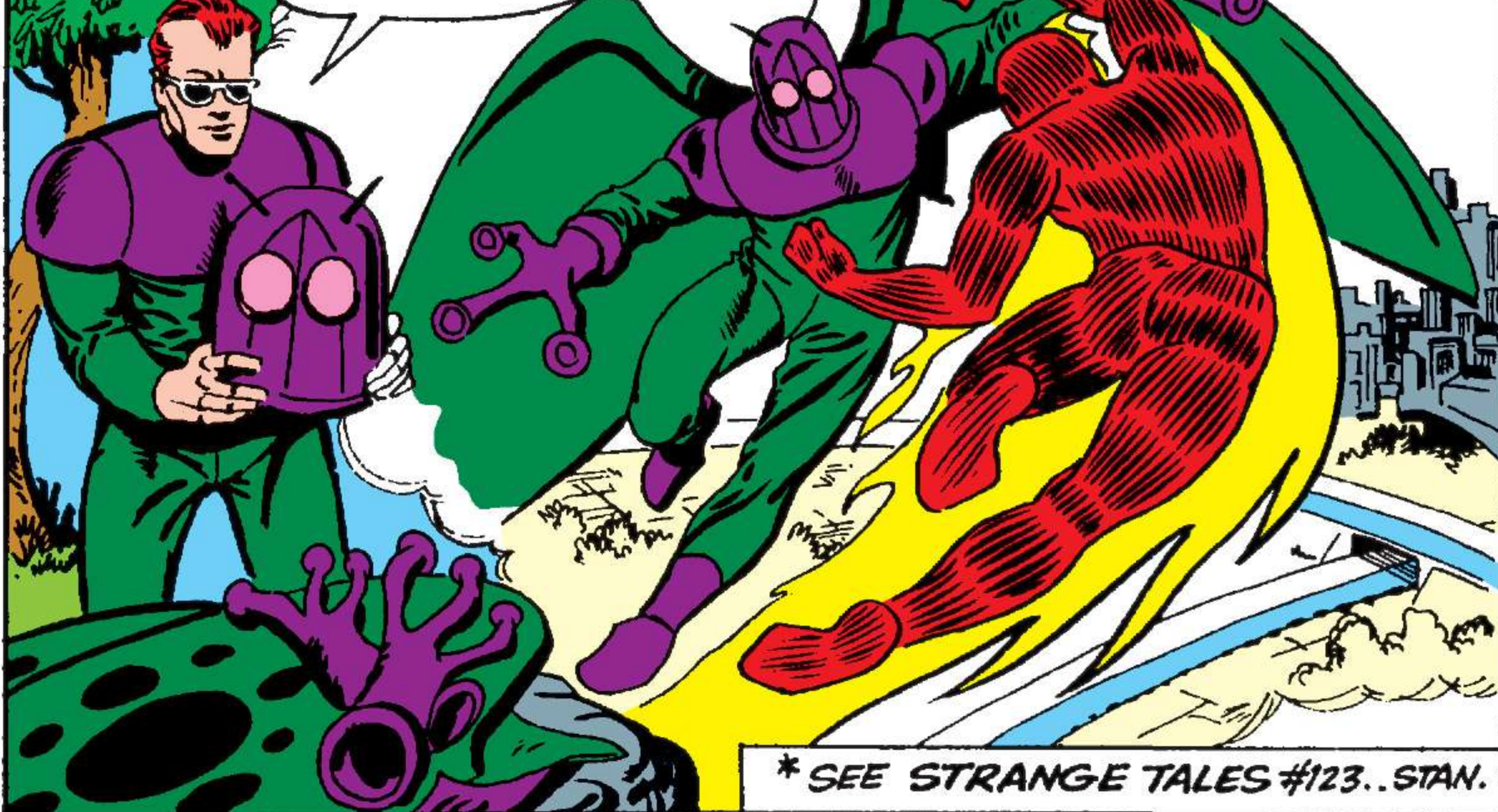
WHEN A MAN HAS FINISHED HIS PRISON TERM, HE **MUST** BE SET FREE, TO TAKE HIS PLACE IN SOCIETY AGAIN! EVEN SUCH A MAN AS ABNER JENKINS, BETTER KNOWN TO VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS... **THE BEETLE** ....!

THEY **HAD** TO GIVE ME BACK MY BEETLE EQUIPMENT! THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST A MAN OWNING AN ARMORED COSTUME!



THEN, WHEN JENKINS REACHES A SECLUDED SPOT IN THE NEARBY WOODS..

THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE DREAMED OF ALL THESE MONTHS! ONCE AGAIN I'LL DON MY **BEETLE OUTFIT**, AND GET MY REVENGE AGAINST THE **HUMAN TORCH**! \*

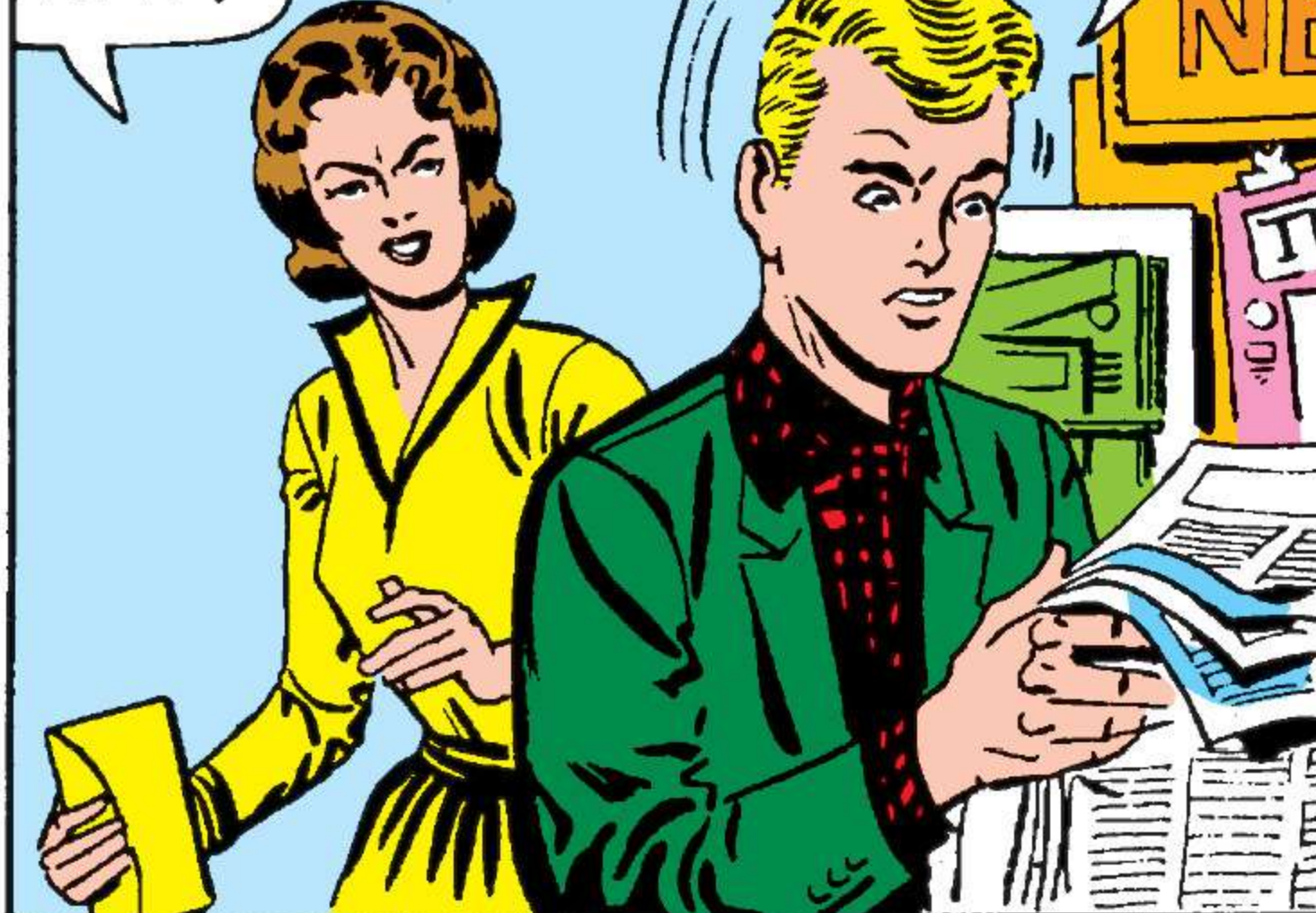


\* SEE STRANGE TALES #123..STAN.

A SHORT TIME LATER, AS A TYPICAL TEEN-AGE COUPLE WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF NEW YORK ... (OR, ARE THEY REALLY SO TYPICAL ??)

I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR DATE TODAY, JOHNNY! YOU ACTED LIKE A QUIET, NORMAL... JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT?

THIS HEADLINE IN THE PAPER, DORIS! IT'S THE **BEETLE**! HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON TODAY!



BUT, THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU! HE'LL PROBABLY FADE INTO OBSCURITY AND... OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!

I'M SORRY, HONEY! BUT I KNOW THAT JOKER! HE'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER NOW!

**FLAME ON!**



I'VE GOT TO SEARCH THE CITY! MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME TRACE OF HIM!

MEANWHILE, IN A QUIET SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN FOREST HILLS, WE FIND ANOTHER TYPICAL TEEN-AGER... (ABOUT AS TYPICAL AS JOHNNY STORM...!)

WHEW! I GUESS I'VE BEEN STUDYING TOO LONG! I'M GETTING A STIFF BACK! ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

... I'VE GOT TO GET THE KINKS OUT... AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT!

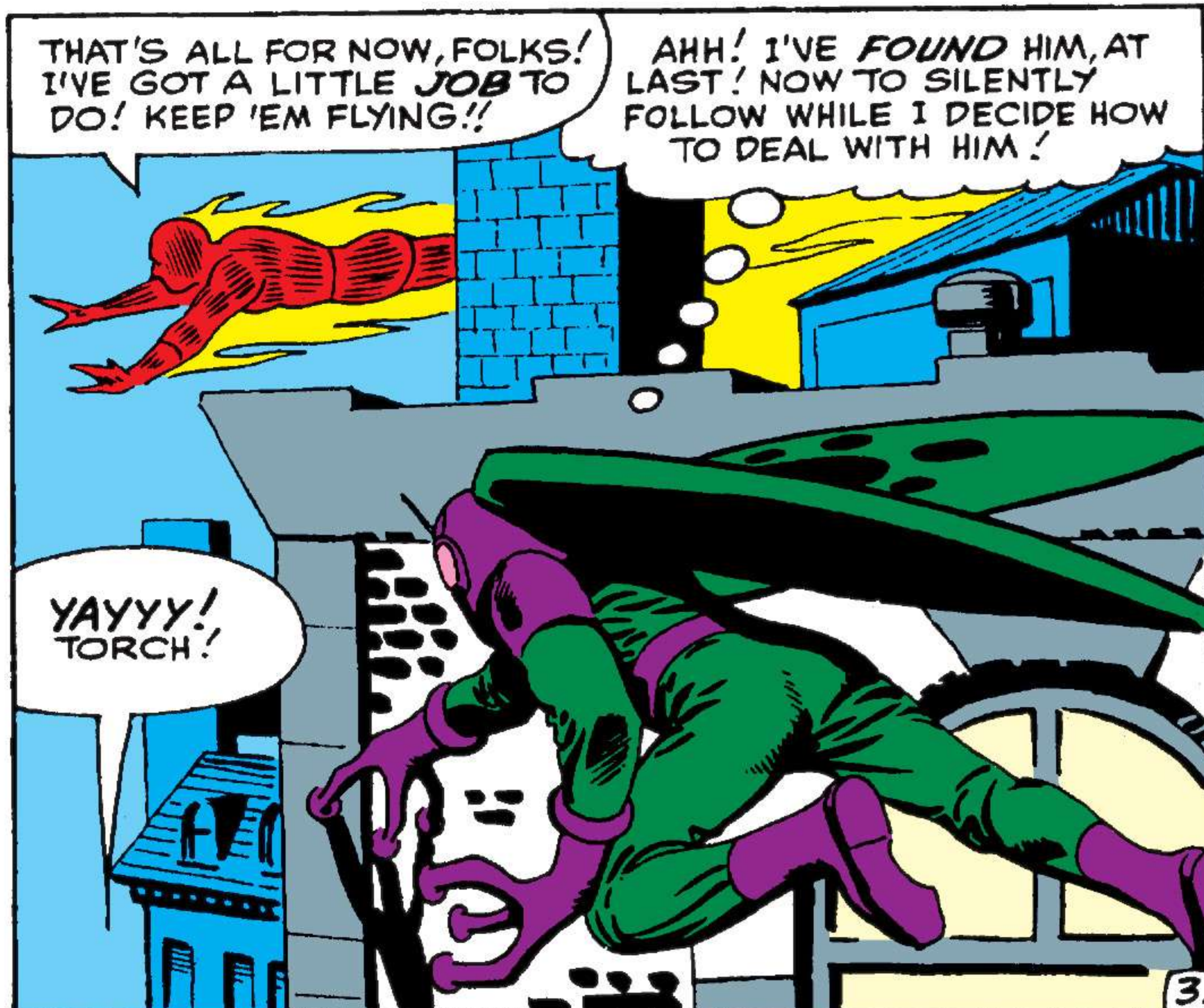
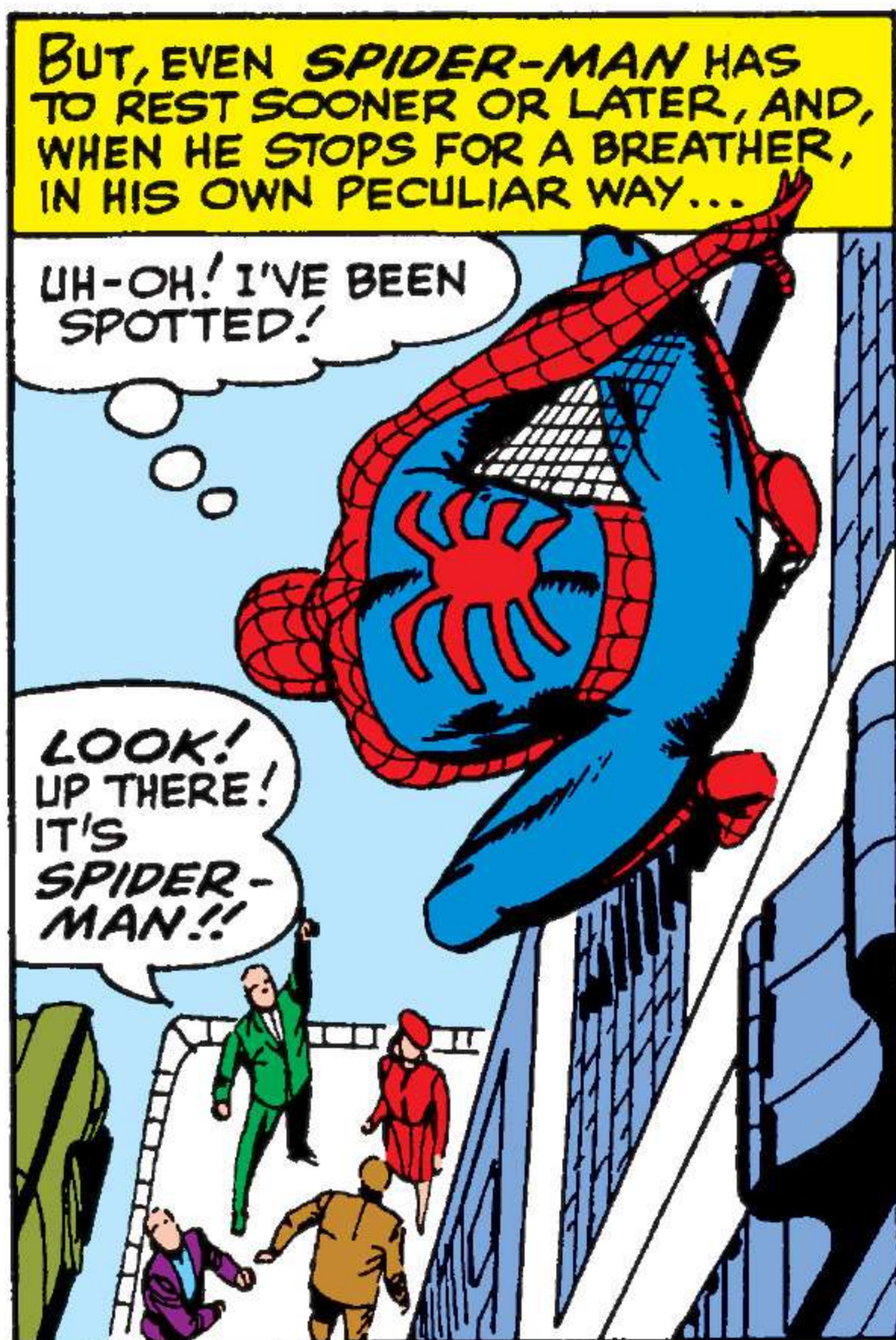


WITHIN SECONDS, YOUTHFUL PETER PARKER DONS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COSTUMES AND TAKES TO THE ROOFTOPS AS THE AMAZING **SPIDER-MAN**!!

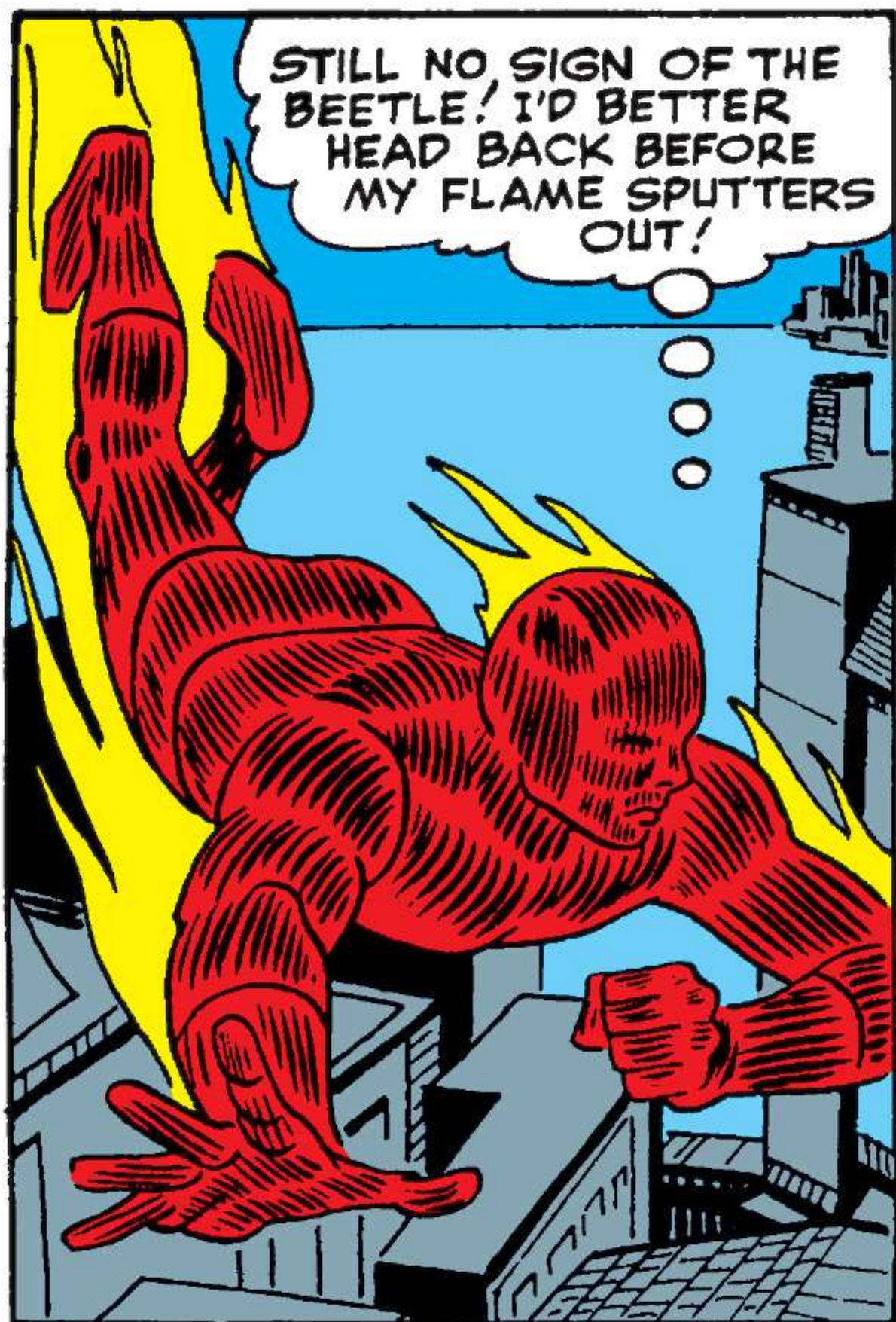
MMM-BOY! THIS SURE BEATS DOING PUSH-UPS ALL HOLLOW!



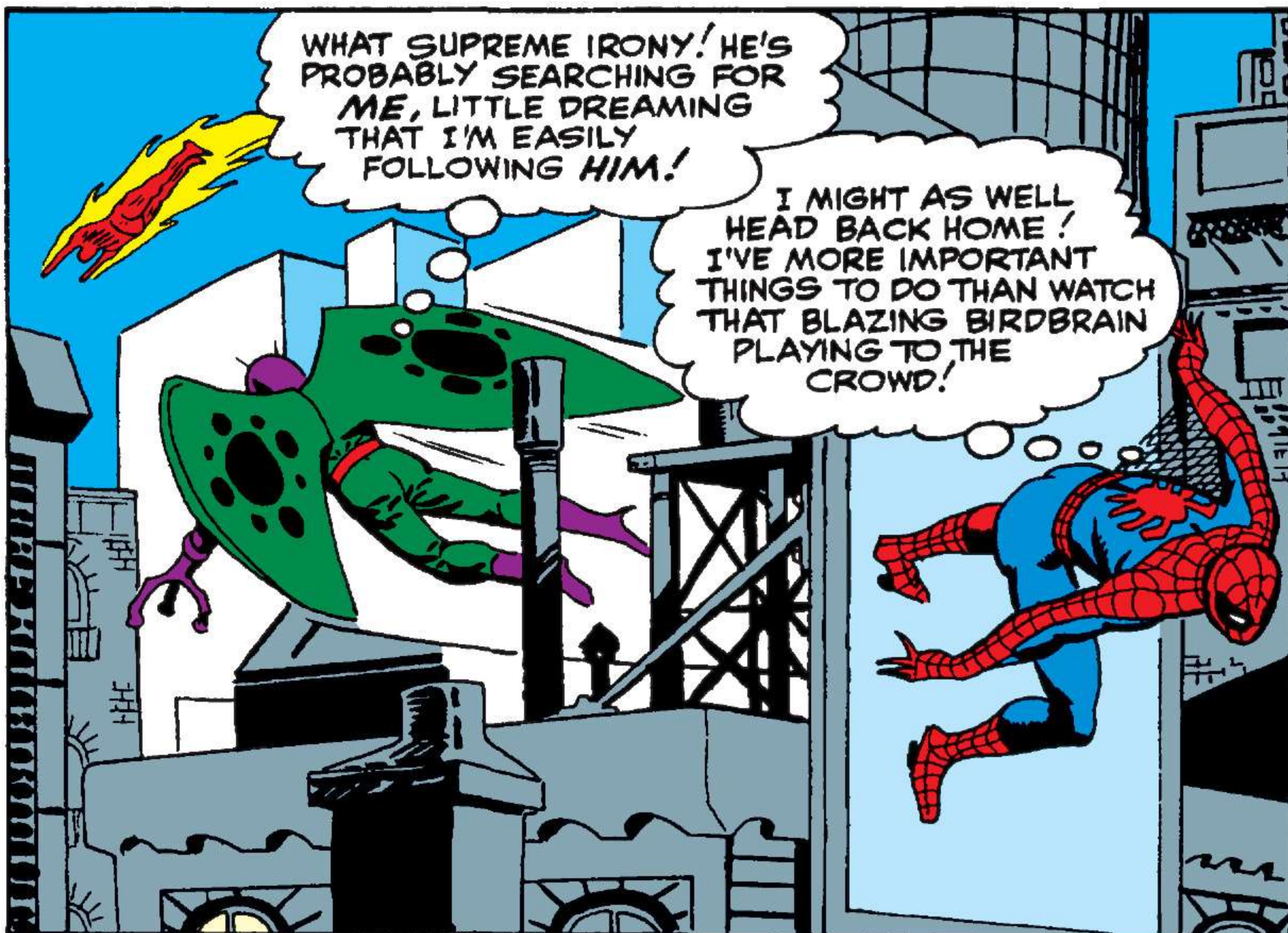








STILL NO SIGN OF THE BEETLE! I'D BETTER HEAD BACK BEFORE MY FLAME SPUTTERS OUT!



WHAT SUPREME IRONY! HE'S PROBABLY SEARCHING FOR ME, LITTLE DREAMING THAT I'M EASILY FOLLOWING HIM!

I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK HOME! I'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN WATCH THAT BLAZING BIRDBRAIN PLAYING TO THE CROWD!



AND SO, OUR SMALL, COLORFUL CAST OF CHARACTERS PART COMPANY... BUT, ONLY FOR THE TIME BEING! FLAMING OFF, JOHNNY STORM CALLS UPON HIS GIRL FRIEND, NOT SUSPECTING THAT THE BEETLE IS LURKING OUTSIDE....!

HI, DORRIE-DOLL! YOUR DREAM-BOAT'S BACK!

WHO INVITED YOU?



AWW, YOU'RE NOT ANGRY AT ME JUST 'CAUSE I FLAMED ON AND FLEW AWAY FOR A WHILE, ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT! I LOVE HAVING MY DATE SUDDENLY LEAVE ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WHILE HE MAKES A SILLY, SMOKING SPECTACLE OF HIMSELF!



BUT, DORRIE...

NO "BUTS", JOHNNY STORM! I'VE HAD IT! I WANT A BOY FRIEND, NOT A BLAZING JUVENILE SHOW-OFF IN A SILLY UNIFORM!

LOOK, JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE..!



VERY WELL THEN! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE! IF YOU CAN SPEND A FULL 24-HOURS WITHOUT FLAMING ON EVEN ONCE, I'LL MAKE BELIEVE THIS NEVER HAPPENED! BUT, IF YOU TURN INTO THE HUMAN TORCH AGAIN....!

DON'T WORRY! I WON'T! I PROMISE!



VERY WELL...WE'LL SEE! BUT REMEMBER... JUST ONE CRY OF FLAME ON...EVEN A WHISPER...OR JUST ONE LITTLE SPARK...AND YOU'D BETTER FORGET MY PHONE NUMBER!

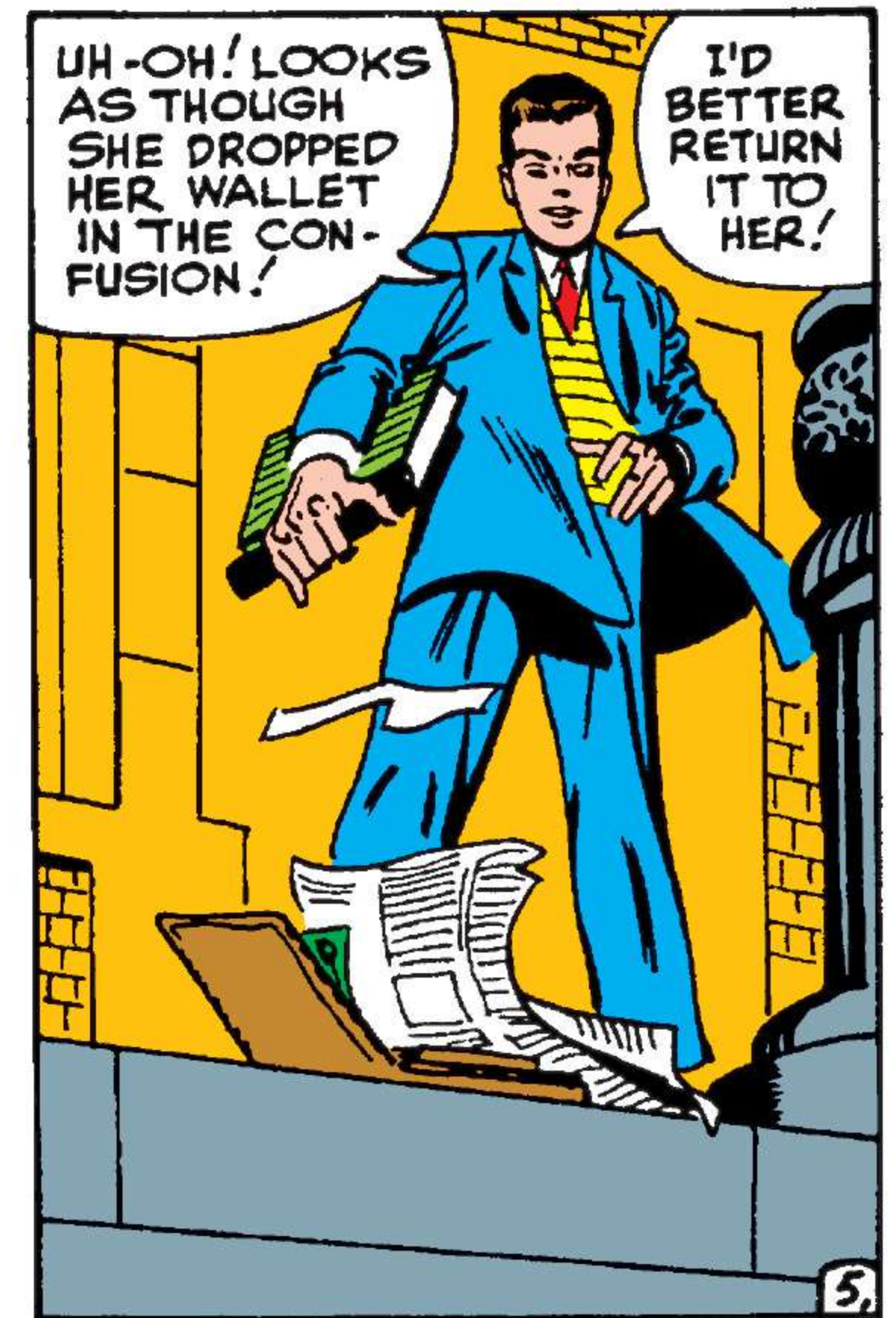
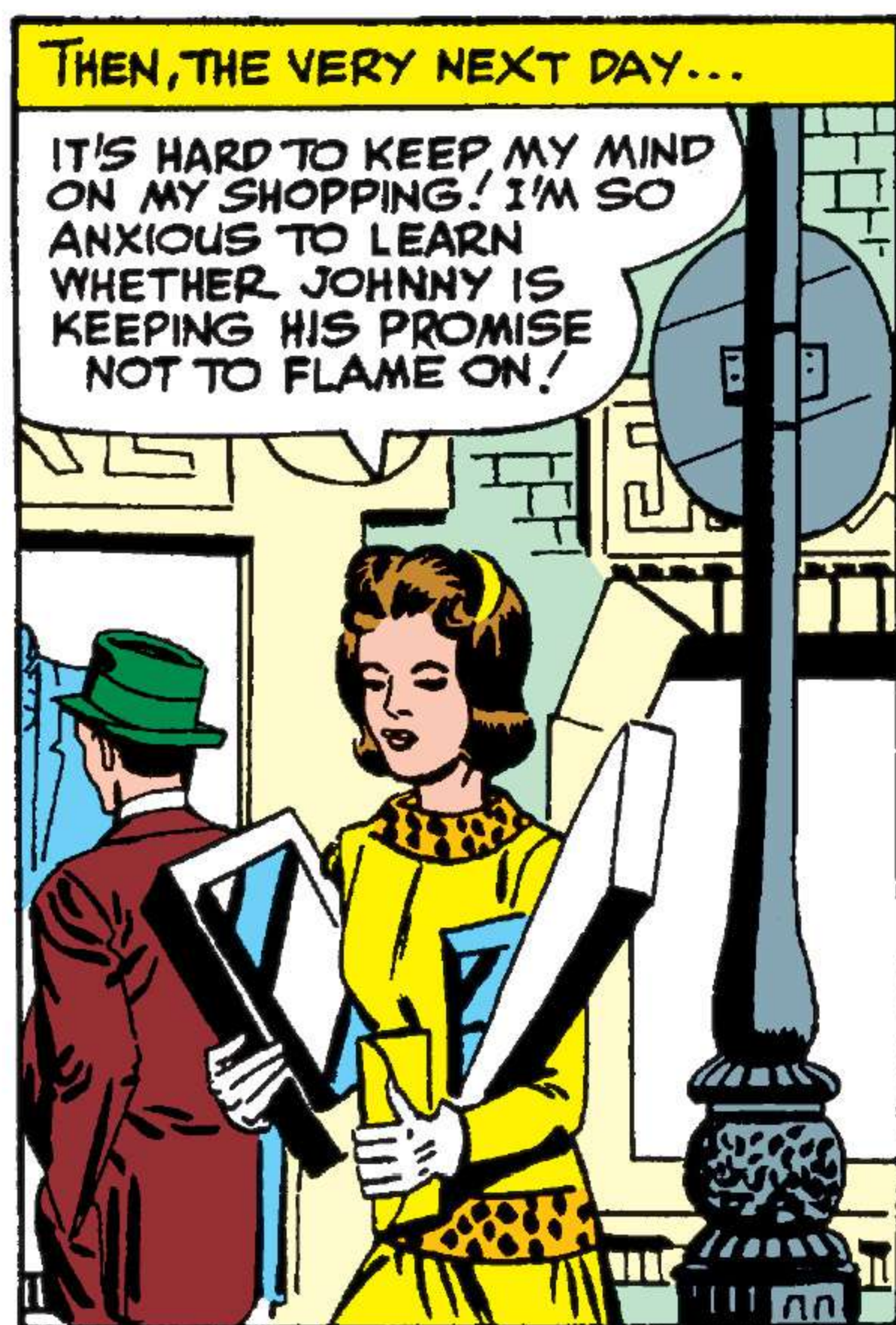
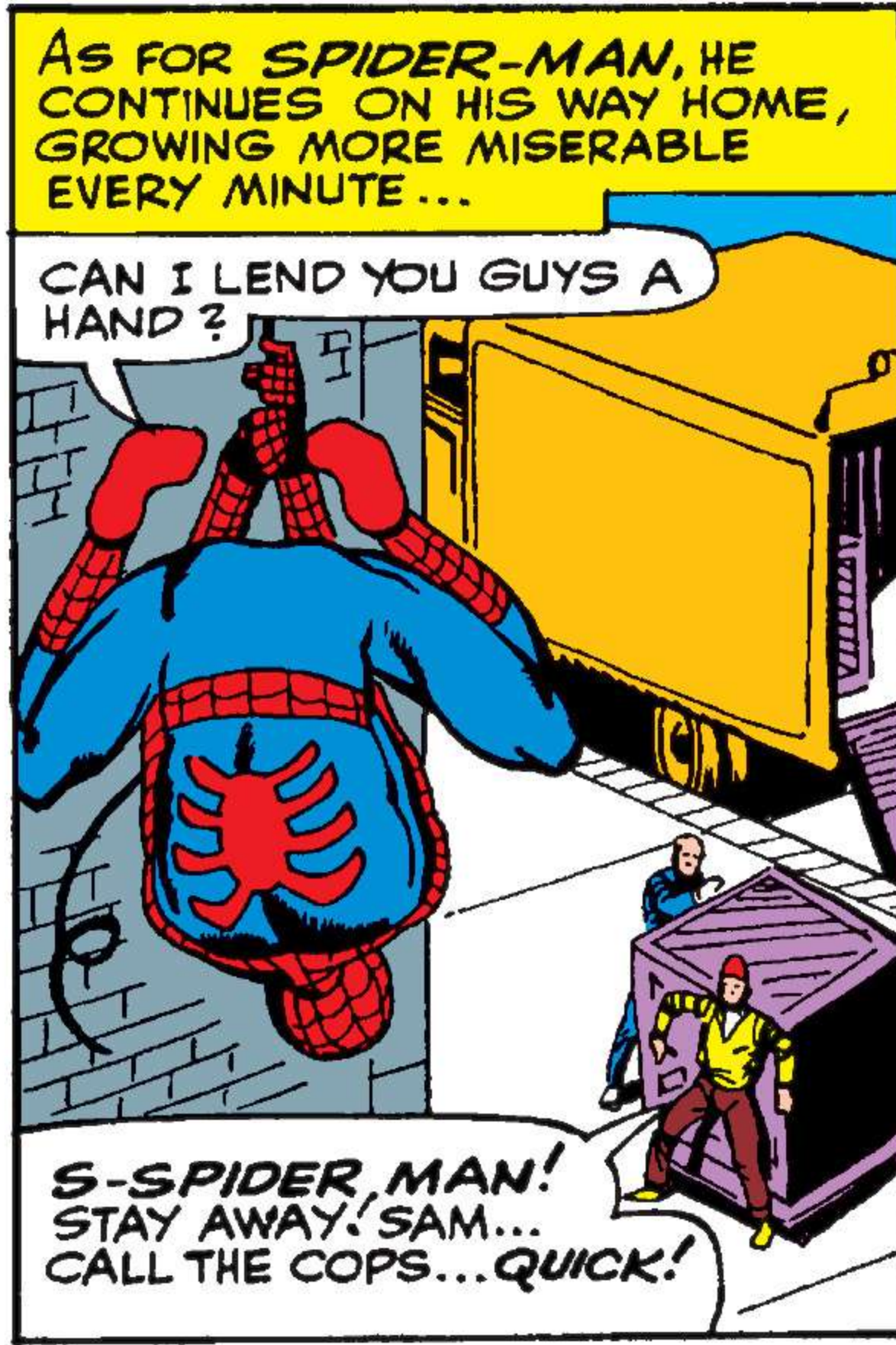
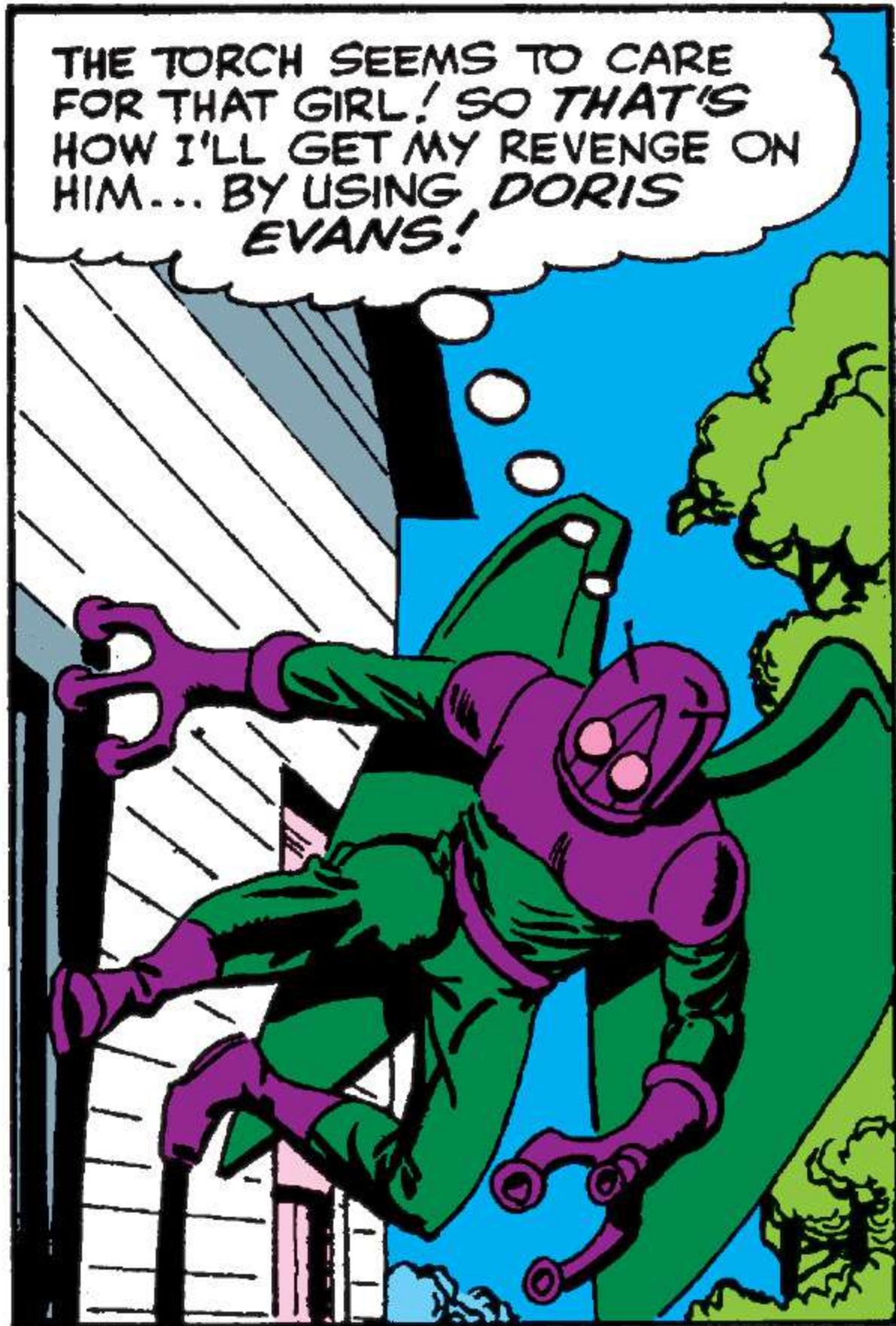
IT'S A DEAL, LOVE OF MY LIFE! BUT, WHAT DID THEY FEED YOU WHEN YOU WERE A BABY? NAILS?



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE HOUSE...

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! NOW I KNOW WHAT TO DO!









HMM...HER NAME'S DORIS EVANS! SHE DOESN'T LIVE FAR FROM HERE! WELL... I'VE GOT TIME...I'LL TAKE IT THERE NOW!



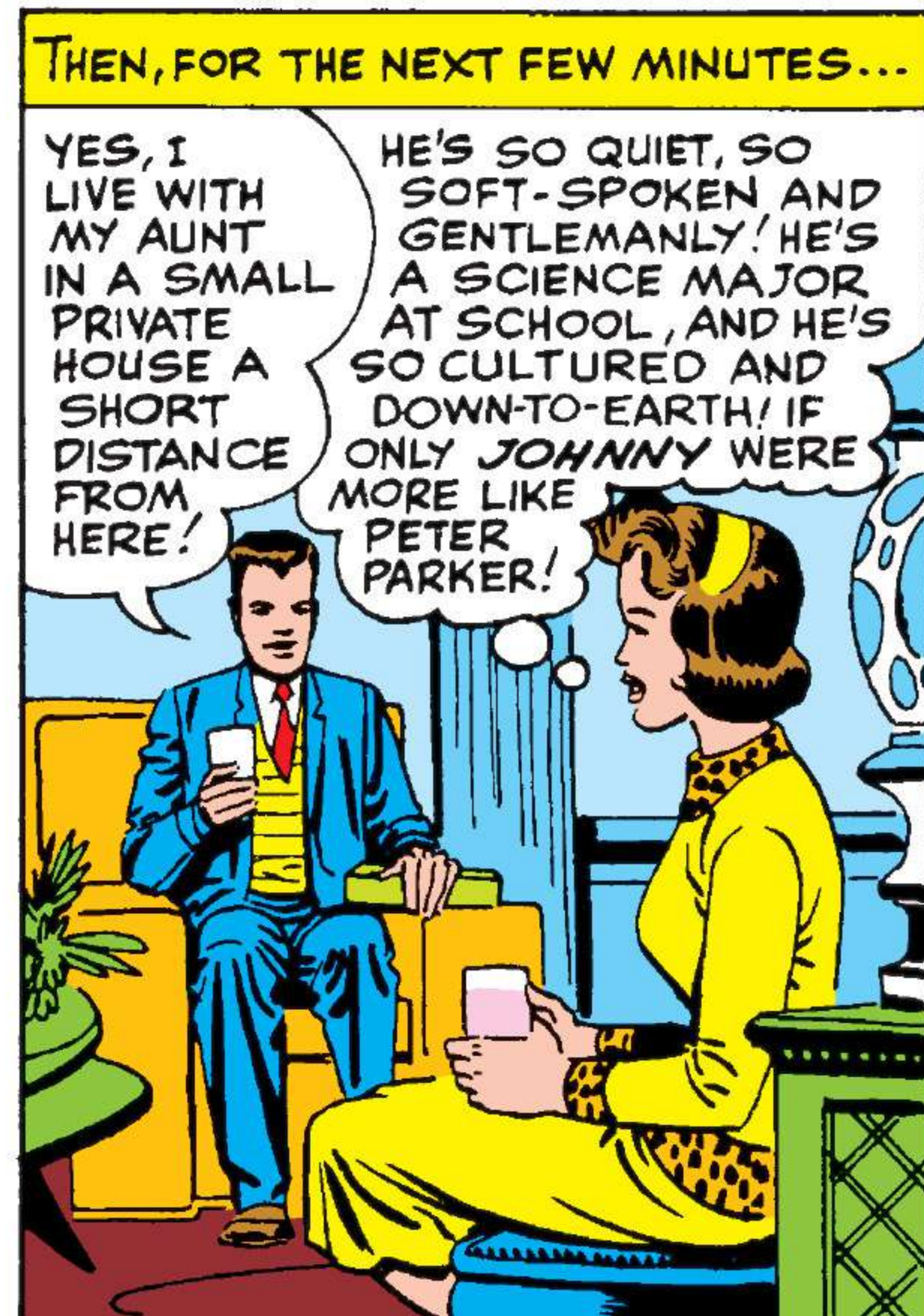
AND SO...

MY WALLET! OH, I'M SO LUCKY YOU FOUND IT! I SIMPLY MUST GIVE YOU A REWARD!

DON'T BE SILLY! I WAS GLAD TO DO IT!

WELL, AT LEAST COME IN AND LET ME FIX YOU A GLASS OF COKE!

THANKS! I COULD SURE USE ONE!

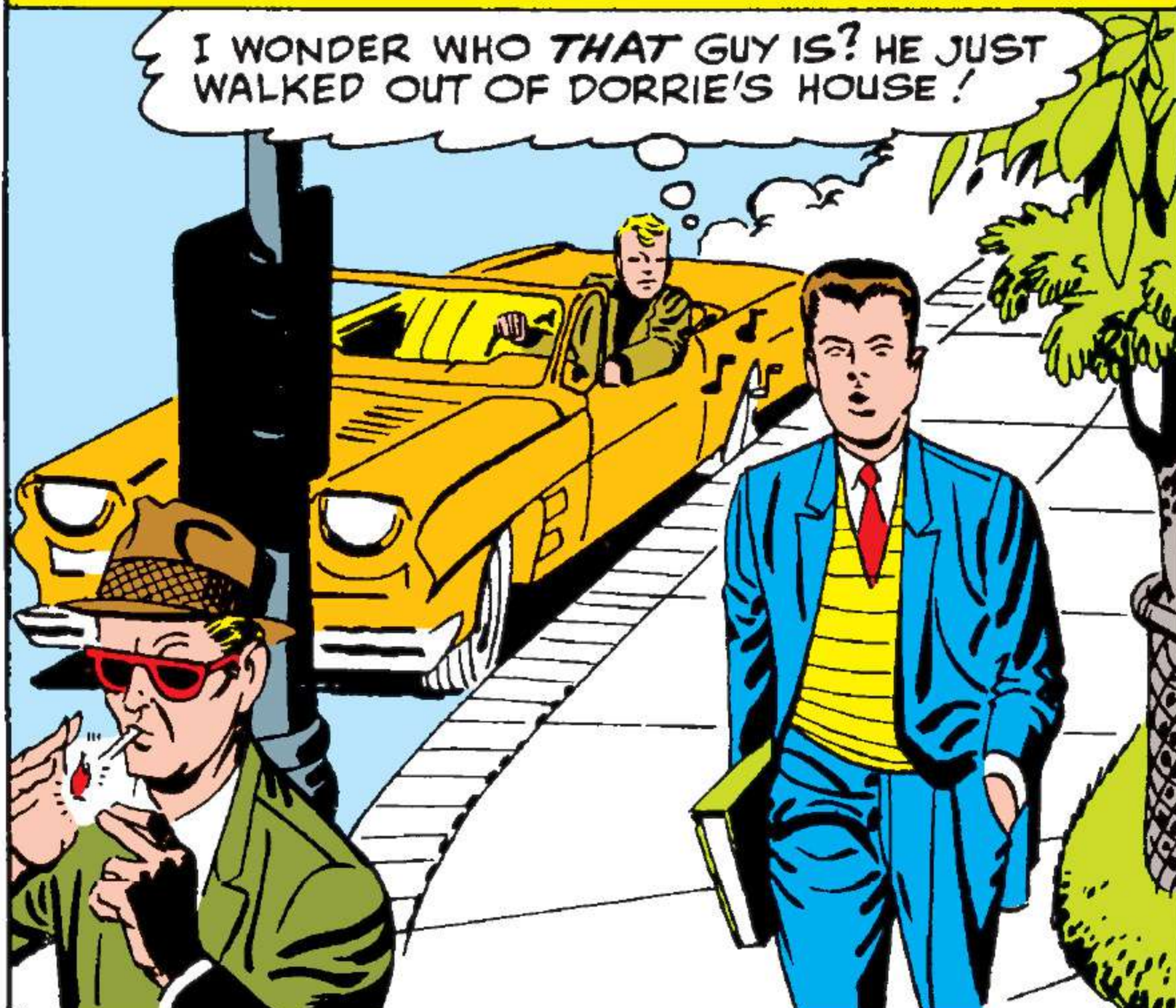


THEN, FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES...

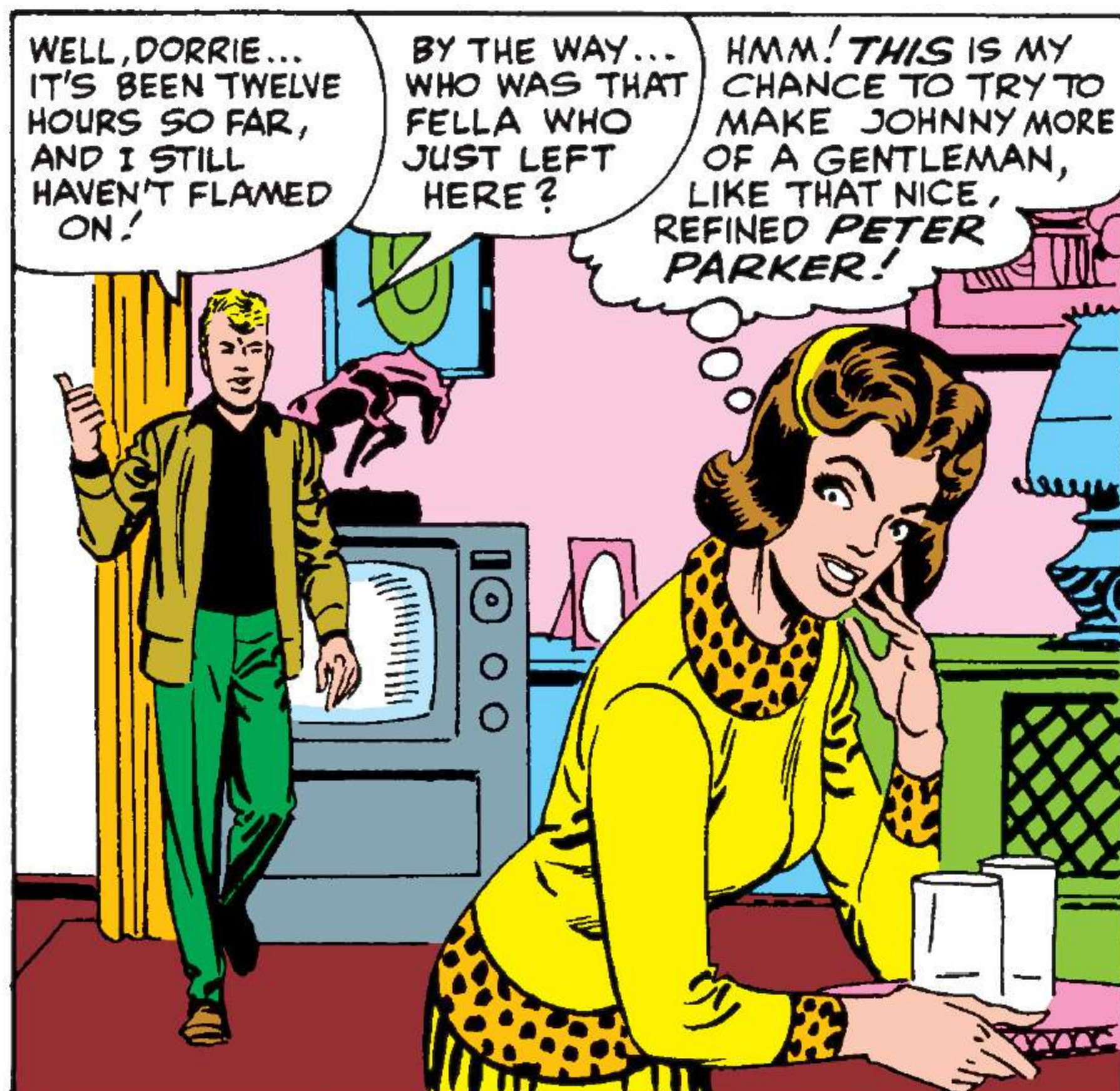
YES, I LIVE WITH MY AUNT IN A SMALL PRIVATE HOUSE A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE!

HE'S SO QUIET, SO SOFT-SPOKEN AND GENTLEMANLY! HE'S A SCIENCE MAJOR AT SCHOOL, AND HE'S SO CULTURED AND DOWN-TO-EARTH! IF ONLY JOHNNY WERE MORE LIKE PETER PARKER!

MINUTES LATER, THINGS GET EVEN MORE INVOLVED AS JOHNNY STORM ARRIVES AT DORIS' HOUSE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE DEPARTURE OF PETER PARKER!



I WONDER WHO *THAT* GUY IS? HE JUST WALKED OUT OF DORRIS'S HOUSE!



WELL, DORRIS... IT'S BEEN TWELVE HOURS SO FAR, AND I STILL HAVEN'T FLAMED ON!

BY THE WAY... WHO WAS THAT FELLA WHO JUST LEFT HERE?

HMM! *THIS* IS MY CHANCE TO TRY TO MAKE JOHNNY MORE OF A GENTLEMAN, LIKE THAT NICE, REFINED PETER PARKER!



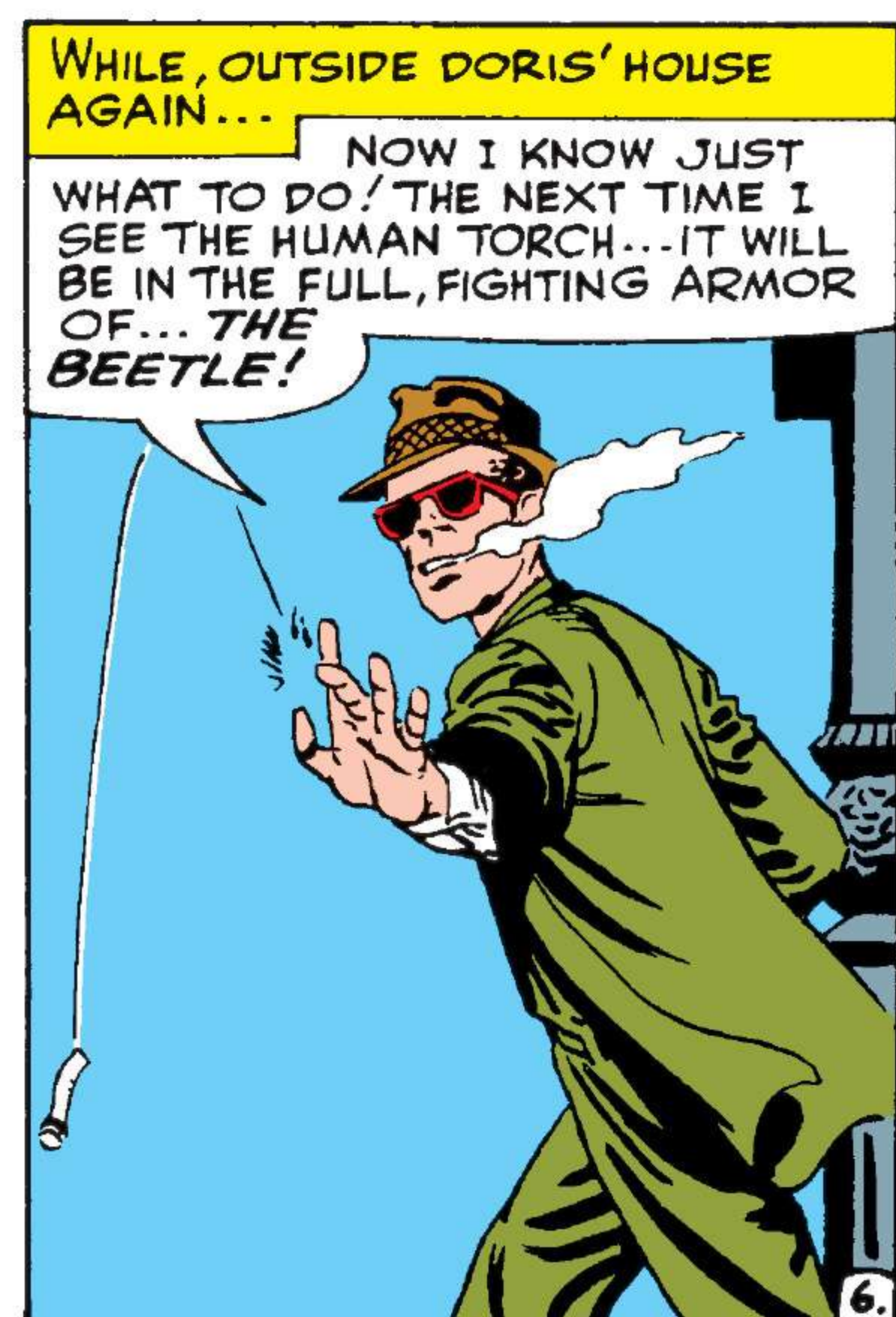
HIS NAME IS PETER PARKER, JOHNNY! HE'S A STUDENT AT MIDTOWN HIGH, AND HE'S JUST THE *NICEST* BOY! HE'S INTERESTED IN POLITICS, SCIENCE AND CURRENT EVENTS!

WELL, GOODY GUMDROPS!



IT WOULDN'T DO *YOU* ANY HARM TO TAKE A LEAF FROM HIS BOOK, JOHNNY STORM! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF SOME OF HIS POISE AND POLISH WERE TO RUB OFF ON *YOU*!

OH, BRO-THER!



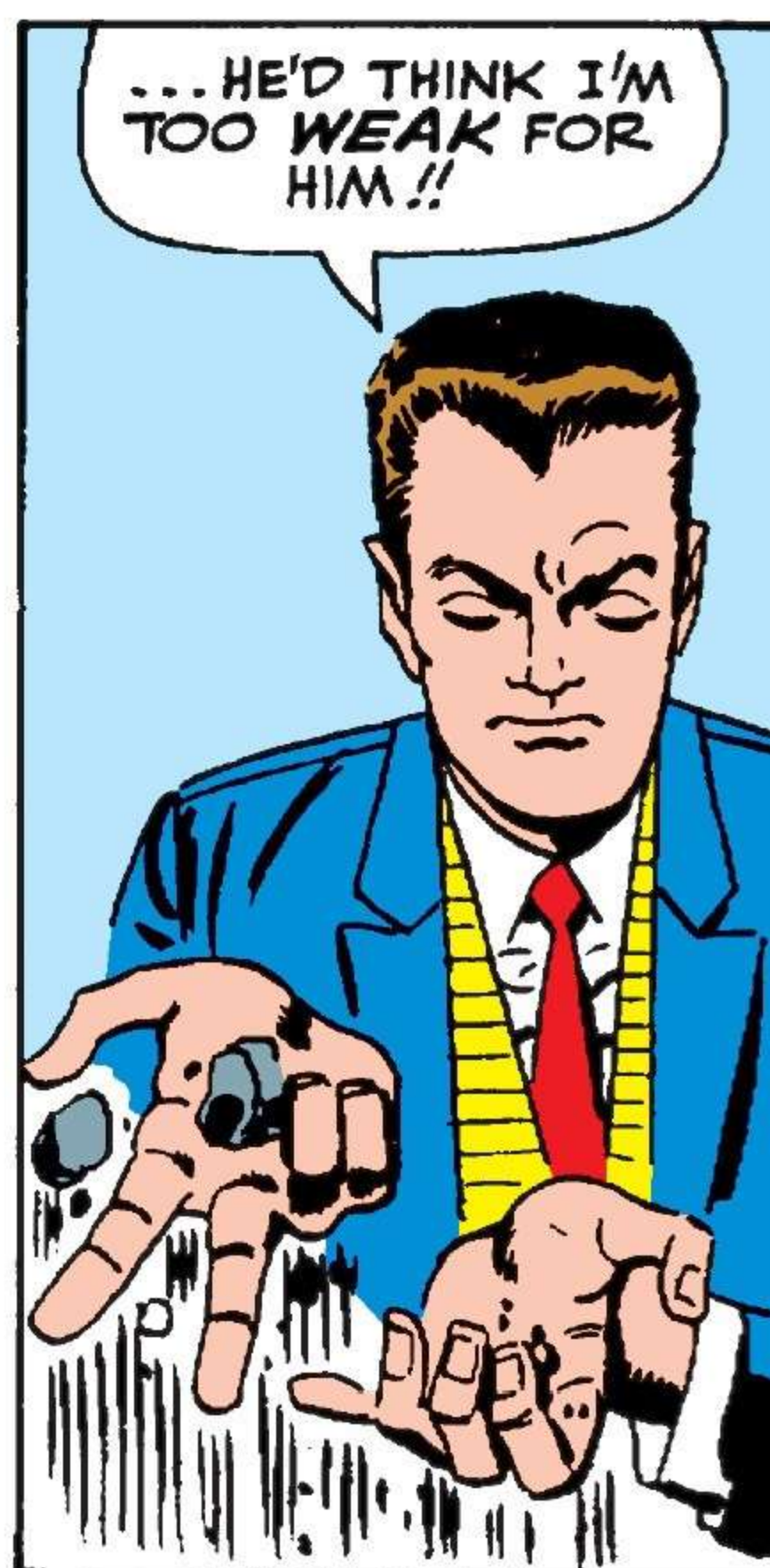
WHILE, OUTSIDE DORIS' HOUSE AGAIN...

NOW I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO! THE NEXT TIME I SEE THE HUMAN TORCH...IT WILL BE IN THE FULL, FIGHTING ARMOR OF... *THE BEETLE*!

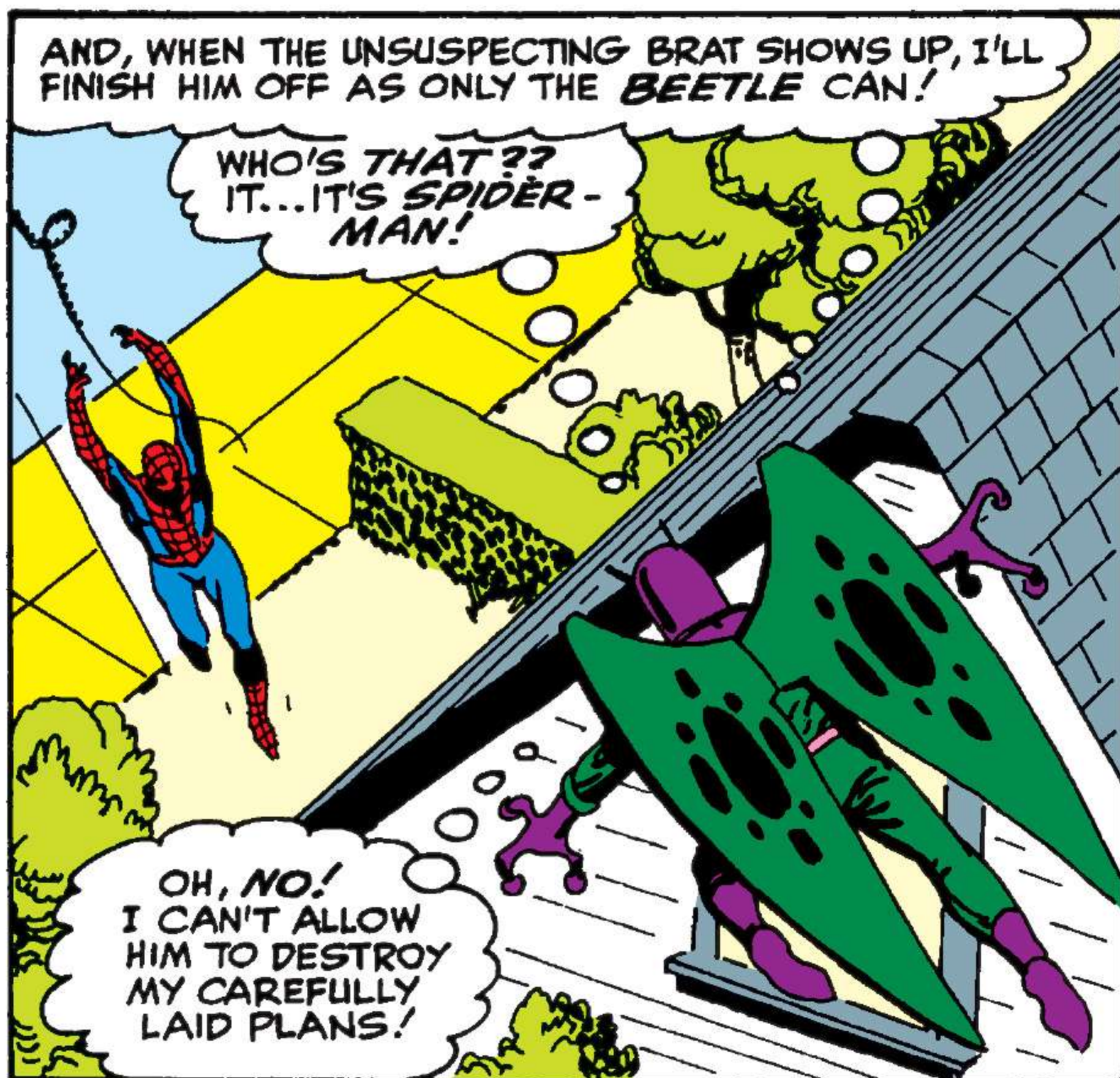








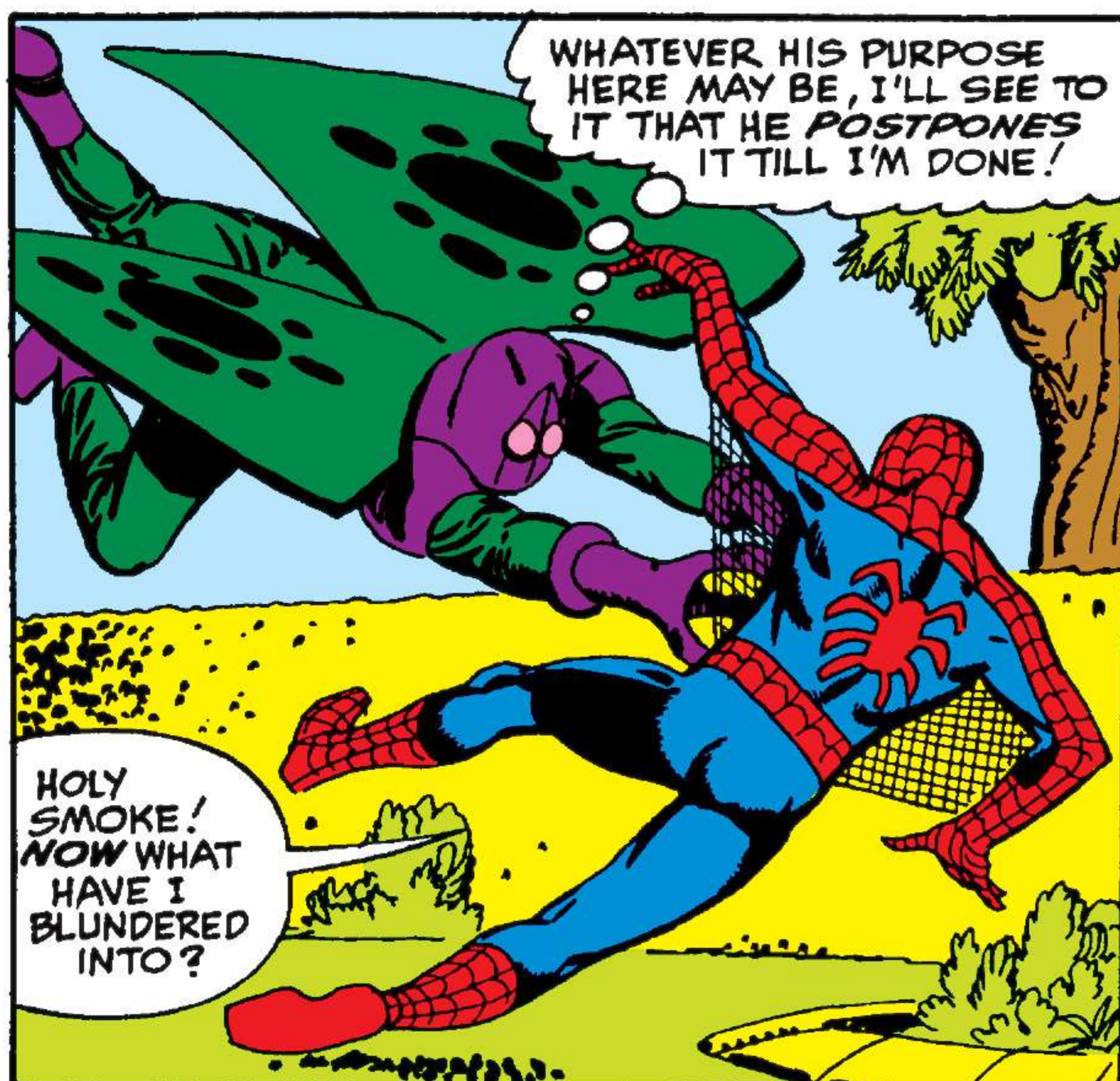




AND, WHEN THE UNSUSPECTING BRAT SHOWS UP, I'LL FINISH HIM OFF AS ONLY THE **BEETLE** CAN!

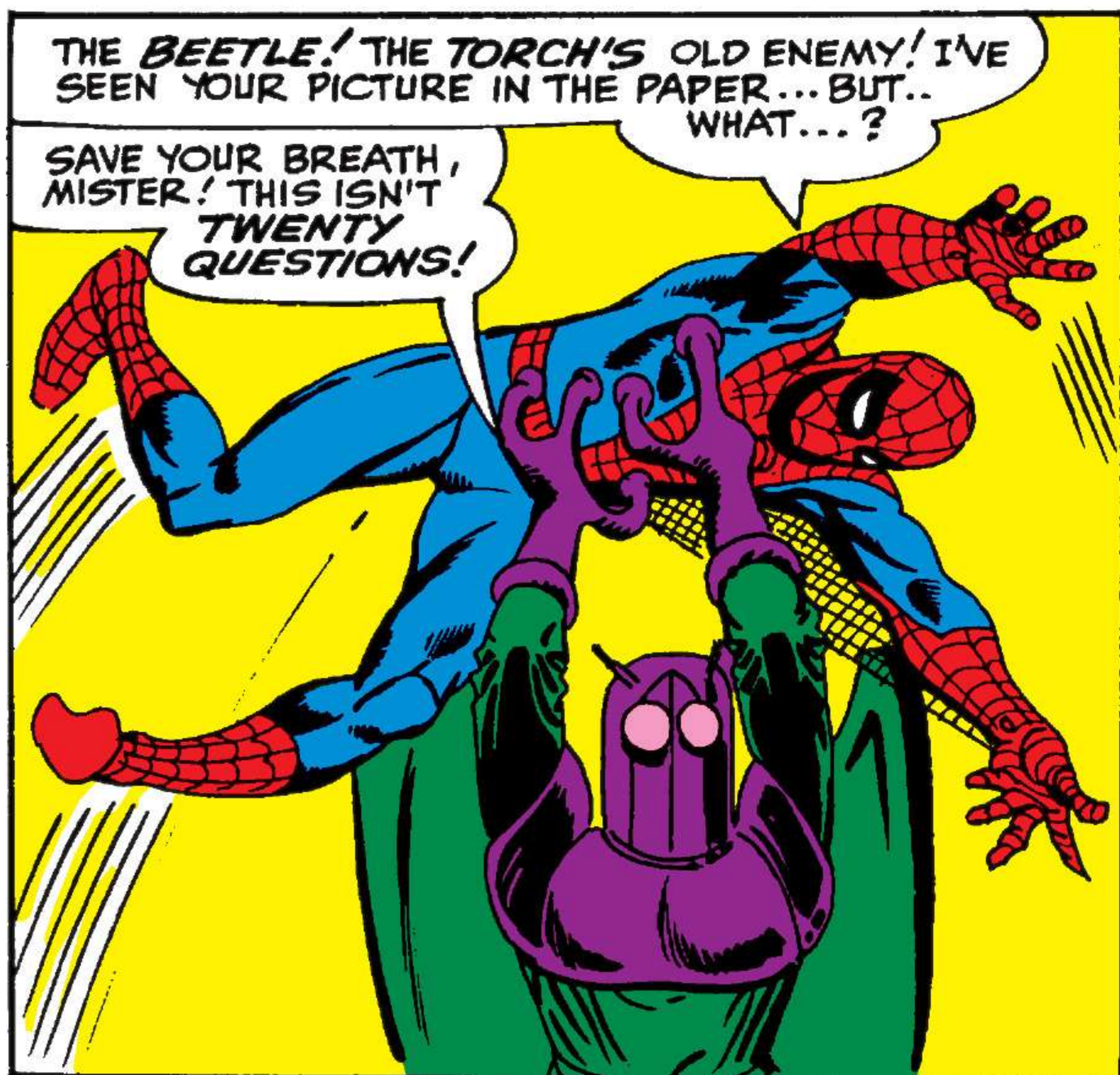
WHO'S THAT??  
IT...IT'S **SPIDER-MAN**!

OH, NO!  
I CAN'T ALLOW  
HIM TO DESTROY  
MY CAREFULLY  
LAID PLANS!



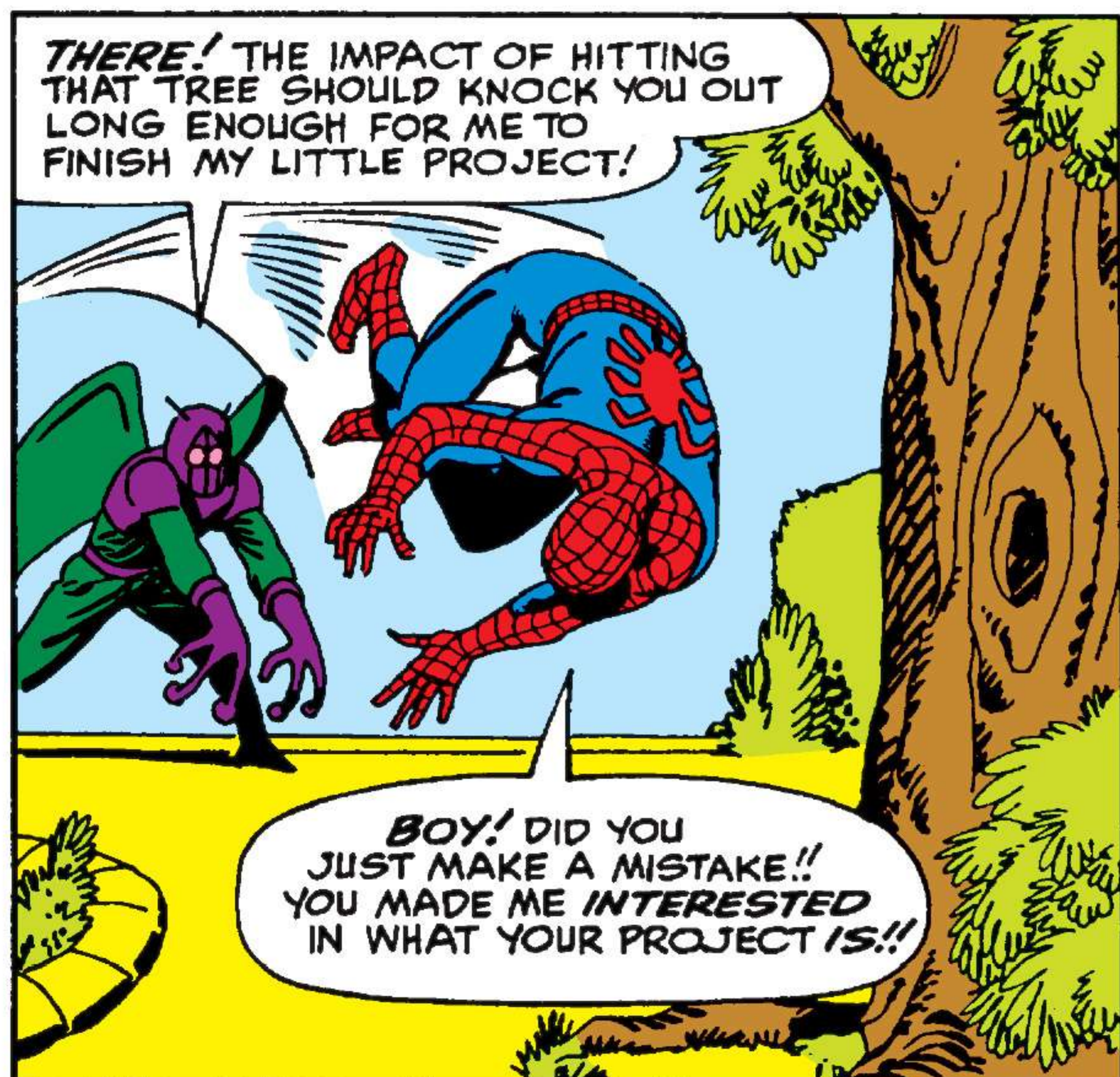
WHATEVER HIS PURPOSE  
HERE MAY BE, I'LL SEE TO  
IT THAT HE **POSTPONES**  
IT TILL I'M DONE!

HOLY  
SMOKE!  
NOW WHAT  
HAVE I  
BLUNDERED  
INTO?



THE **BEETLE**! THE **TORCH**'S OLD ENEMY! I'VE  
SEEN YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPER... BUT...  
WHAT...?

SAVE YOUR BREATH,  
MISTER! THIS ISN'T  
**TWENTY**  
QUESTIONS!



**THERE!** THE IMPACT OF HITTING  
THAT TREE SHOULD KNOCK YOU OUT  
LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO  
FINISH MY LITTLE PROJECT!

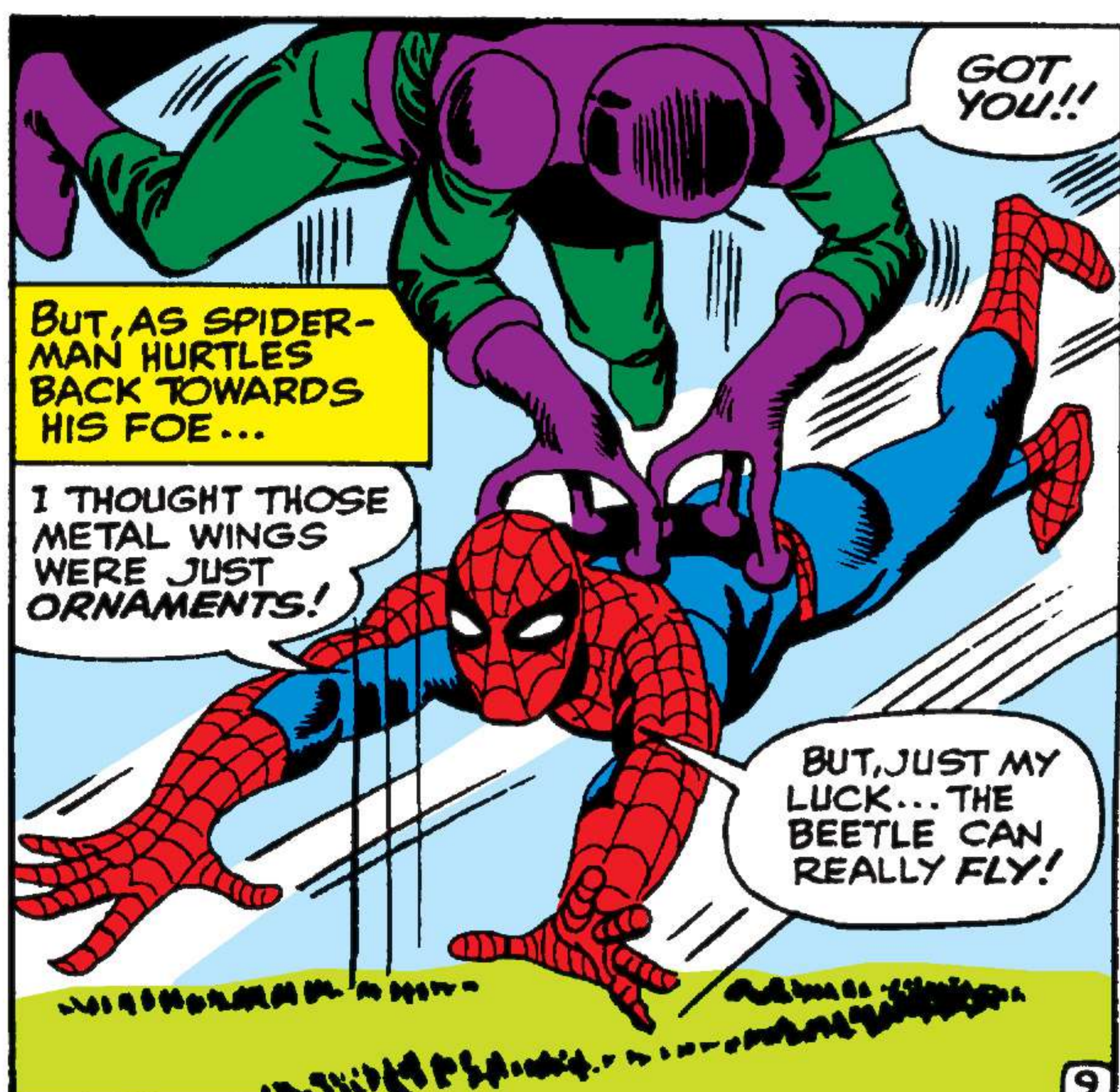
BOY! DID YOU  
JUST MAKE A MISTAKE!!  
YOU MADE ME **INTERESTED**  
IN WHAT YOUR PROJECT IS!!



SO I THINK I'LL JUST HANG  
AROUND UNTIL I FIND OUT!

**THWAP!**

NOW, JUST STAY WHERE  
YOU ARE, **BEETLE**... I WON'T  
KEEP YOU WAITING LONG!



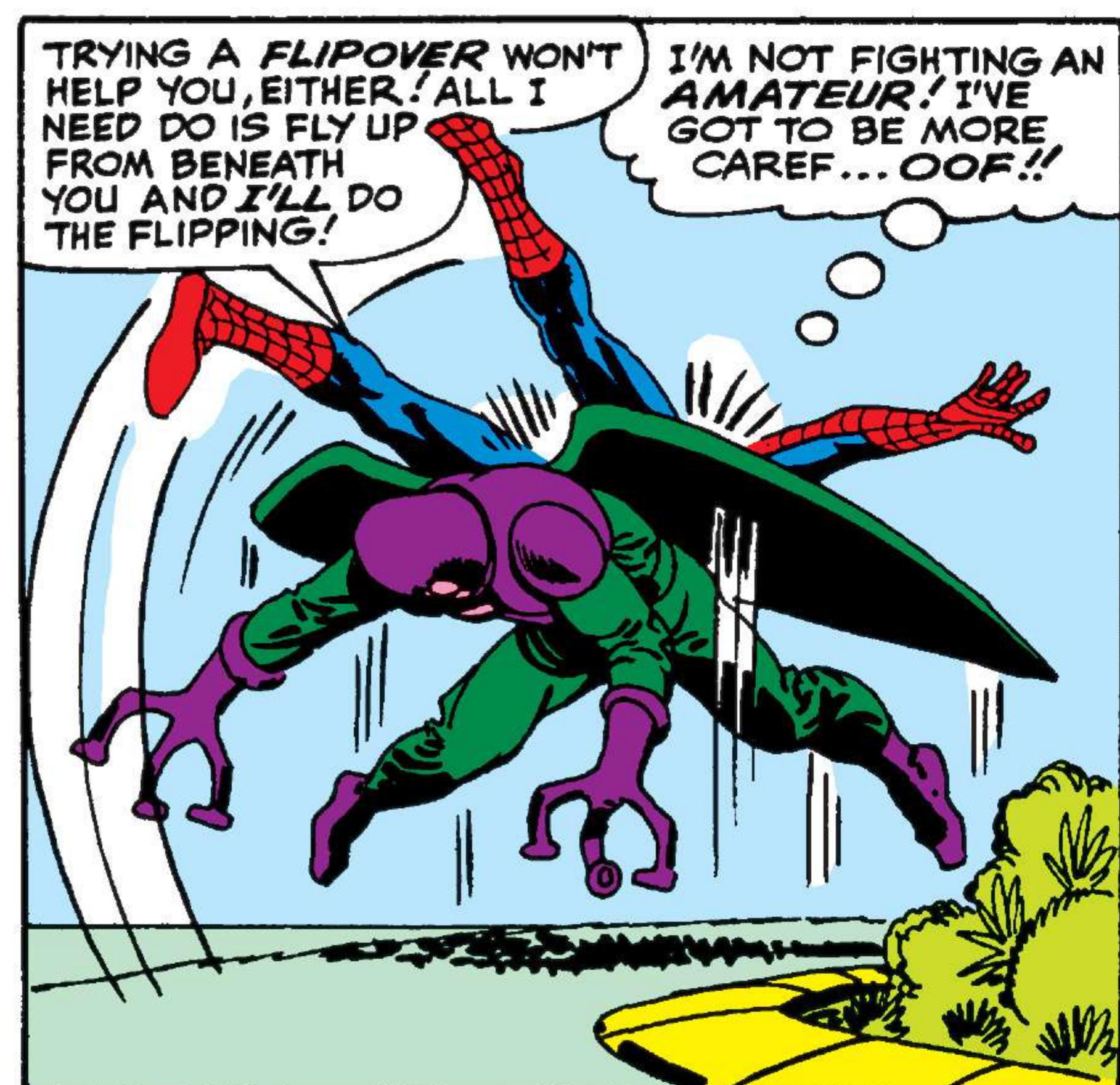
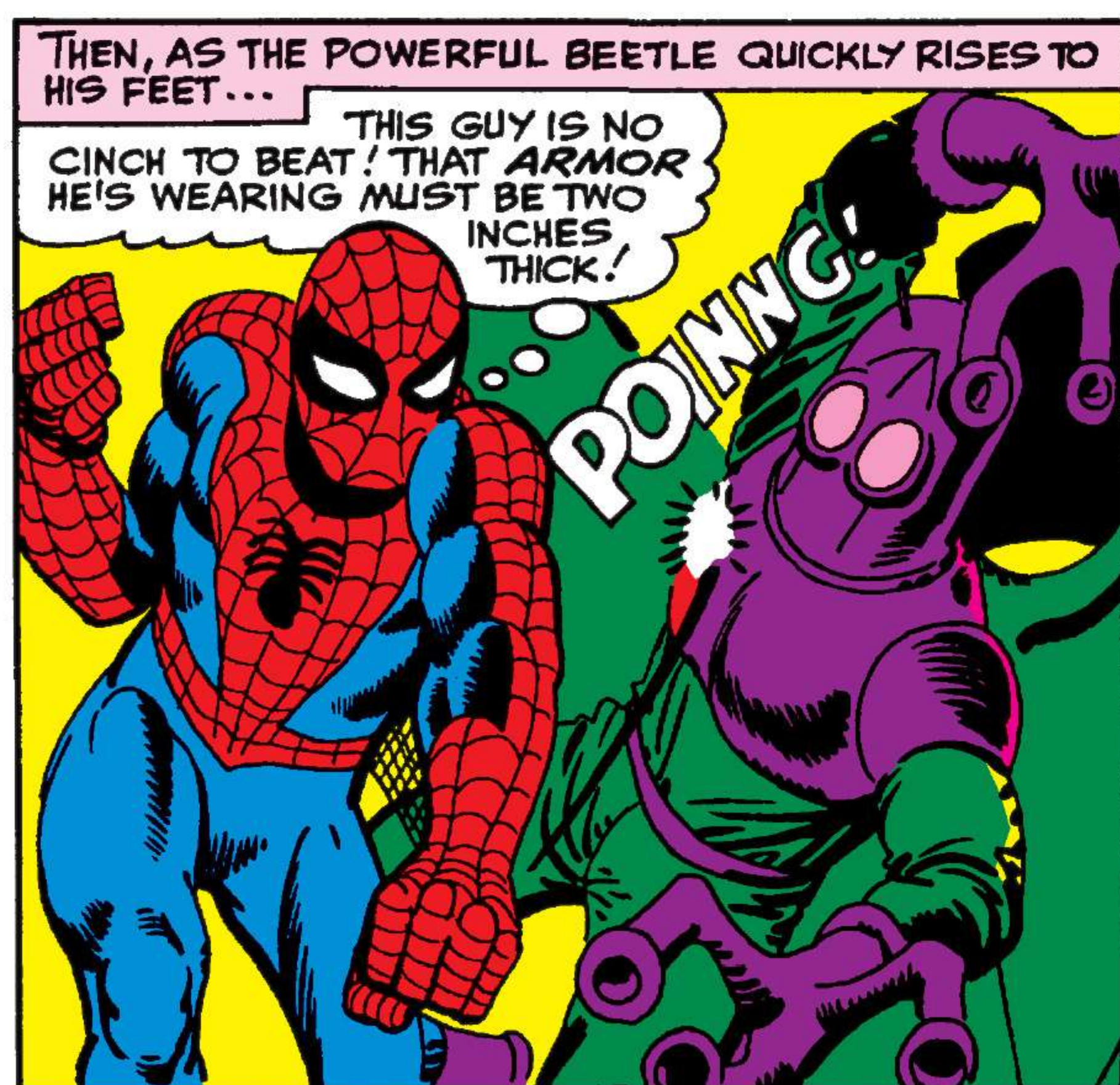
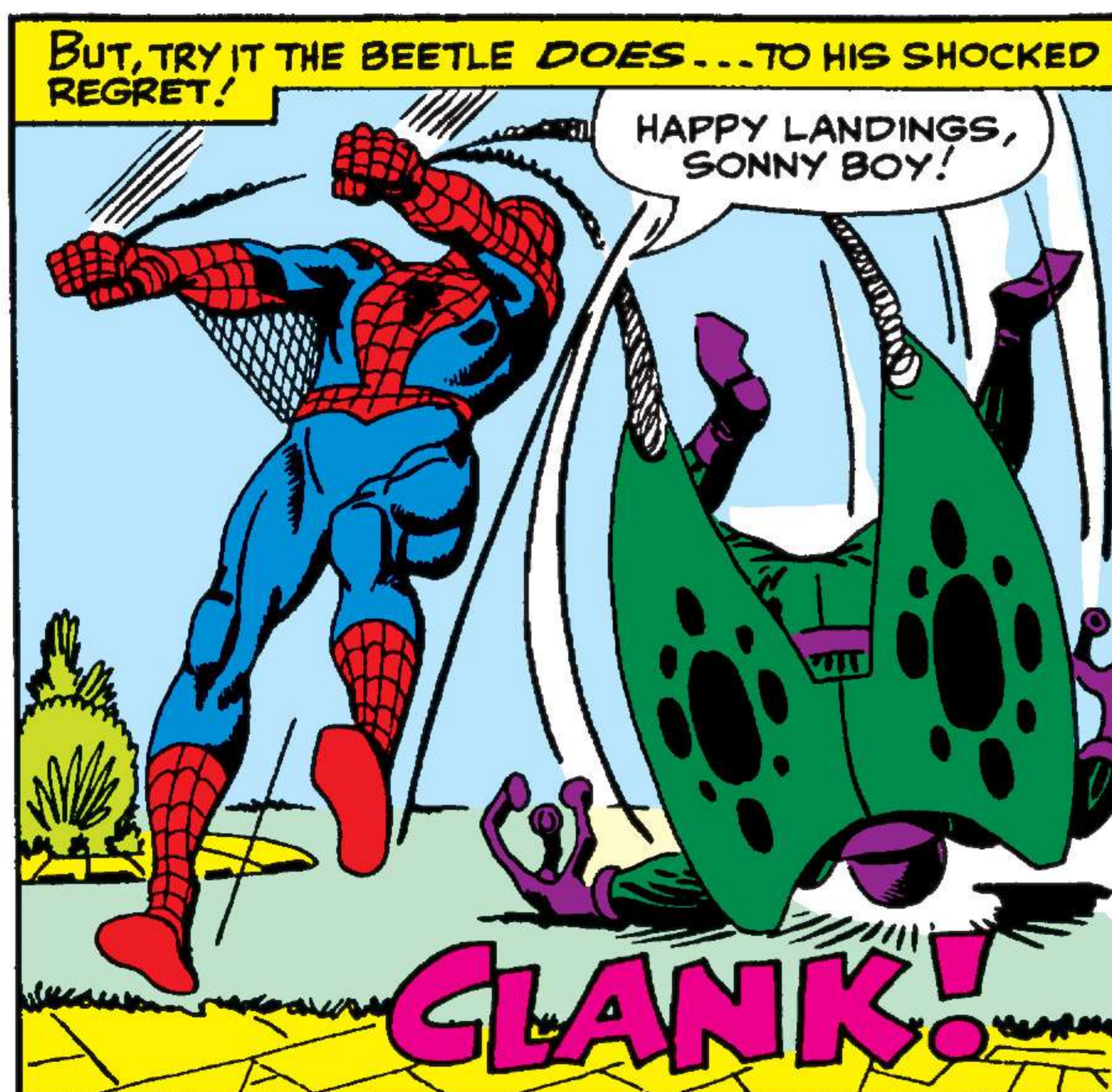
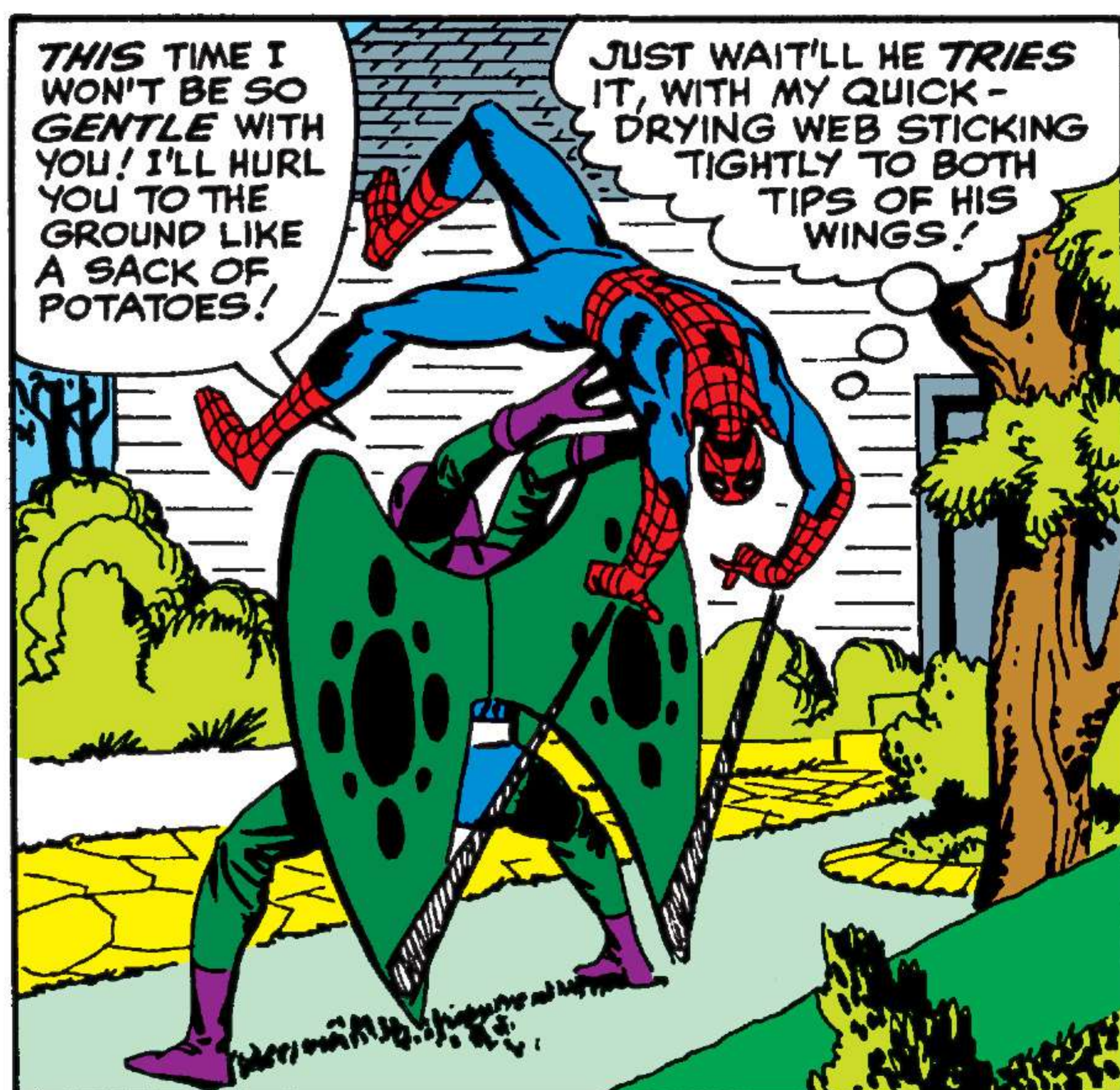
**GOT  
YOU!!**

BUT, AS **SPIDER-MAN**  
HURTTLES  
BACK TOWARDS  
HIS FOE...

I THOUGHT THOSE  
METAL WINGS  
WERE JUST  
ORNAMENTS!

BUT, JUST MY  
LUCK... THE  
**BEETLE** CAN  
REALLY FLY!







AND, AS THE FAST-MOVING FIGHT CONTINUES...

THE **BEETLE**... AND **SPIDER-MAN**... FIGHTING OUTSIDE MY WINDOW! THIS IS HORRIBLE!

I... I NEED HELP! JOHNNY... I'VE GOT TO CALL JOHNNY!

THERE'S THE PHONE! THE WAY MY LUCK'S BEEN RUNNING, IT'S PROBABLY SOMEONE CALLING TO **SUE** ME!

**BRRING!**

JOHNNY! THANK HEAVEN I REACHED YOU! YOU'VE GOT TO FLAME ON AND GET HERE RIGHT AWAY! I-I'M IN **DANGER**!

NICE TRY, GIRL FRIEND! BUT, YOU WON'T MAKE ME LOSE MY BET **THAT** WAY! I SAID I WOULDN'T FLAME ON FOR 24 HOURS... AND I'VE STILL GOT ABOUT ELEVEN HOURS TO GO!

OH, NO! I'M NOT FOOLING! I **NEED** YOU, JOHNNY! YOU MUST **BELIEVE** ME!

SURE, HONEY, SURE! I BELIEVE YOU! YOU'D NEVER TRY TO KID **ME**!

WHY, I'LL BET THERE ARE A COUPLE OF BIG, BAD VILLAINS OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW RIGHT NOW! WHO ARE THEY, DORRIE? **SPIDER-MAN** AND **DOCTOR DOOM**?

JOHNNY... LISTEN...!

I HAVE TO HANG UP NOW, BABY! THE BIG BAD WOLF IS TRYING TO BLOW MY DOOR DOWN! SEE YA AROUND!

HE... DIDN'T **BELIEVE** ME! IT'S MY OWN FAULT... FOR ALWAYS CRITICIZING HIM! HE HUNG UP!

**CLICK!**

AND, AS SPIDEY AND THE BEETLE CONTINUE THEIR BATTLE OUTSIDE DORIS EVANS' WINDOW...

GOOD OL' DORRIE! I ALWAYS **DID** LIKE A GAL WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR!

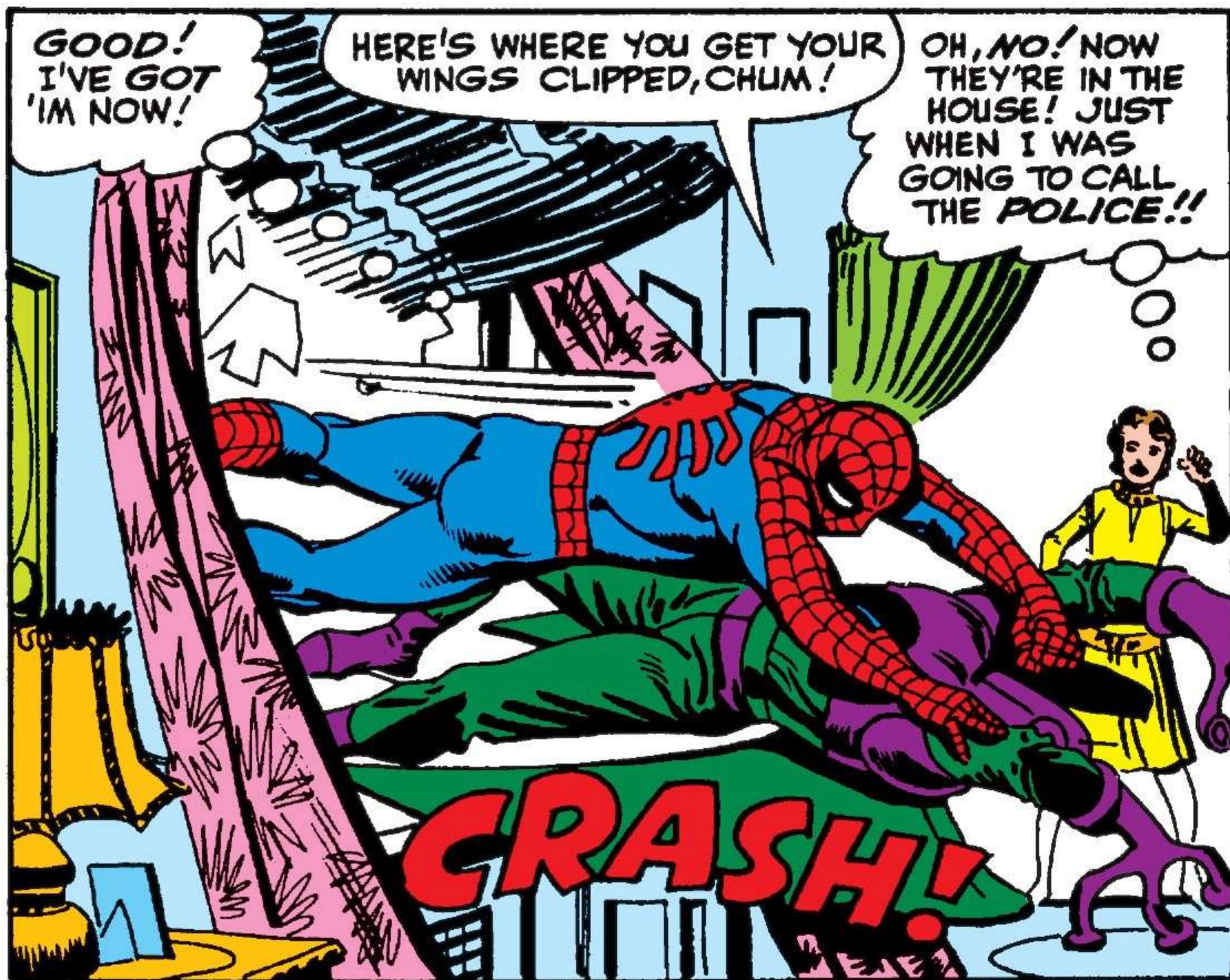


BUT, THOUGH JOHNNY STORM CHUCKLES OVER DORRIE'S "SENSE OF HUMOR", NONE OF OUR OTHER PROTAGONISTS SEEM TO BE DOING MUCH LAUGHING....!



MAYBE I CAN KEEP HIM FROM USING HIS WINGS WITH MY WEBBING!

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! HE SNAPPED IT BEFORE IT COULD HARDEN! BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM FROM TAKING TO THE AIR!



GOOD! I'VE GOT 'IM NOW!

HERE'S WHERE YOU GET YOUR WINGS CLIPPED, CHUM!

OH, NO! NOW THEY'RE IN THE HOUSE! JUST WHEN I WAS GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!!



THEY'RE BETWEEN ME AND THE PHONE! WHAT WILL I DO? !!!

YOU'VE RUINED MY WHOLE PLAN!! YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!!



SORRY, BEETLE... I'M A LITTLE SHORT RIGHT NOW! DO YOU MIND IF I CHARGE IT INSTEAD??

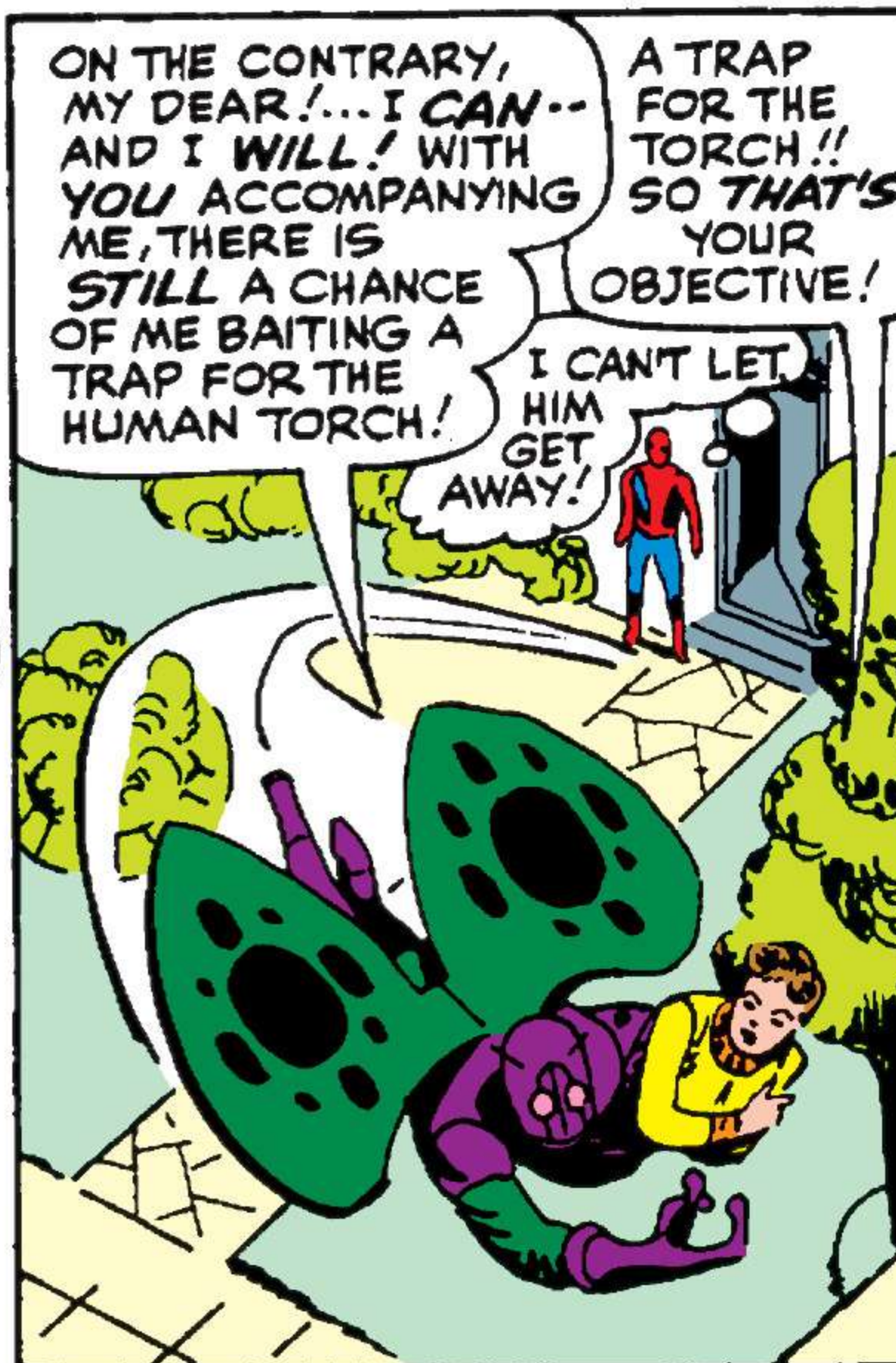
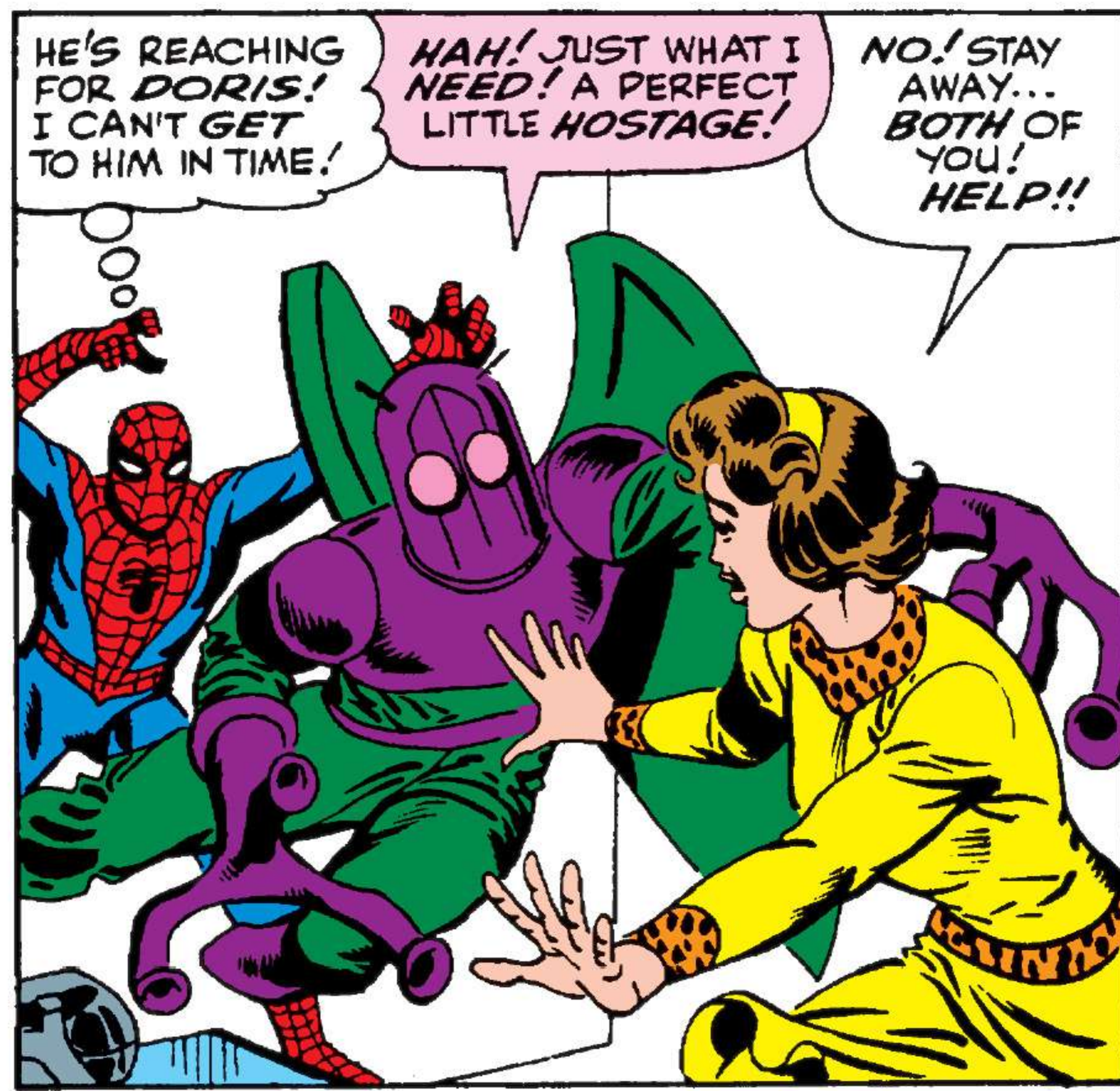
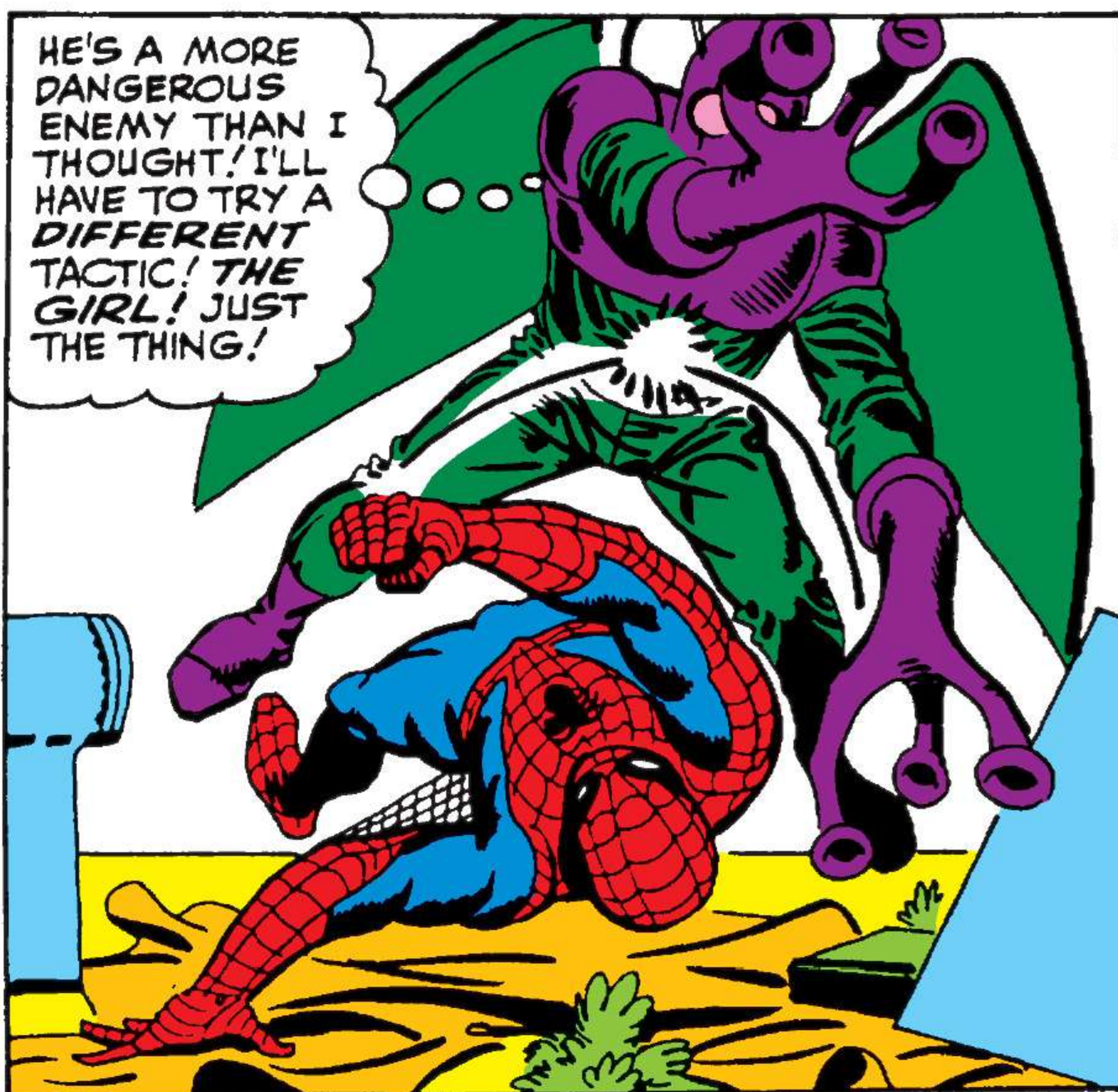
WHOP!



NOW, SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT YOUR SO-CALLED PLAN WAS, WHILE YOU CAN STILL TALK!

I WISH I FELT AS CONFIDENT AS I'M TRYING TO SOUND! THAT ARMOR OF HIS SHRUGS OFF MY BLOWS AS THOUGH THEY'RE POWDER-PUFFS!







BUT, A FEW SECONDS AFTER OUR LITTLE CAST OF CHARACTERS HAS VACATED THE HOUSE, JOHNNY STORM ARRIVES, ONLY TO FIND...

THE PLACE IS A **SHAMBLES!** DORRIE IS GONE! AND...THERE ARE TRACES OF **WEBBING** AROUND!

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO **DUMB?** HER PHONE CALL WAS FOR **REAL!**

# FLAME ON!

WHATEVER HAPPENED, **SPIDER-MAN** MUST BE INVOLVED IN SOME WAY! BUT... **HOW? WHY??**

THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR! I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM!

AND THEN, THE **FLAMING, FLYING TEEN-AGER** SEES...

THERE HE IS! TRYING TO **ESCAPE!**

**HOLD IT, YOU WEB-SPINNIN' CREEP!** WHERE'S MY GIRL FRIEND ?? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO DORRIE ??

THE **TORCH!!!**

HE MUST HAVE COME FROM DORIS' HOUSE! HE THINKS I'M RESPONSIBLE! **OWW...** THOSE **BLAMED FIREBALLS** ARE COMING TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT! I'VE GOT TO **DO SOMETHING!**

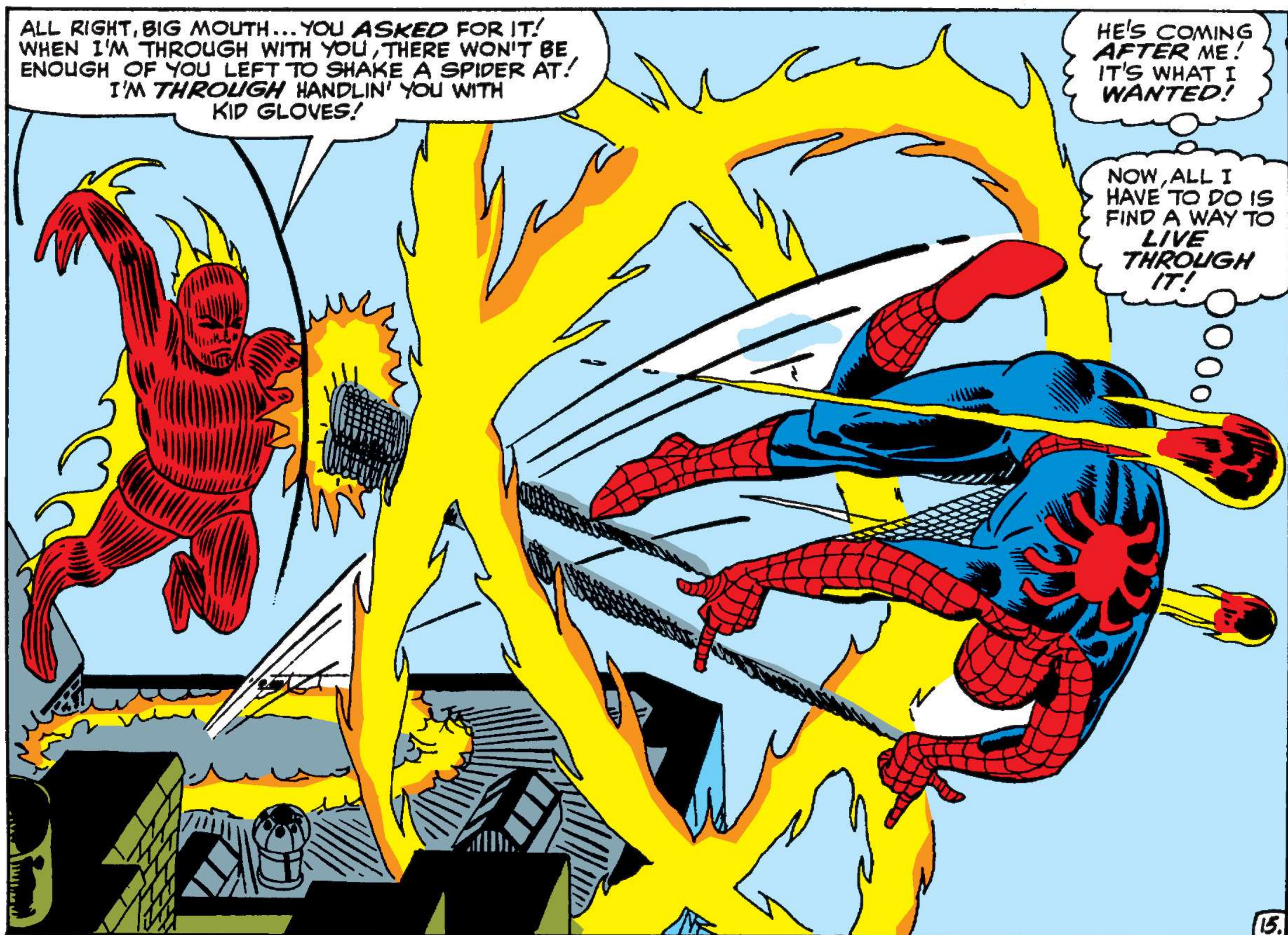
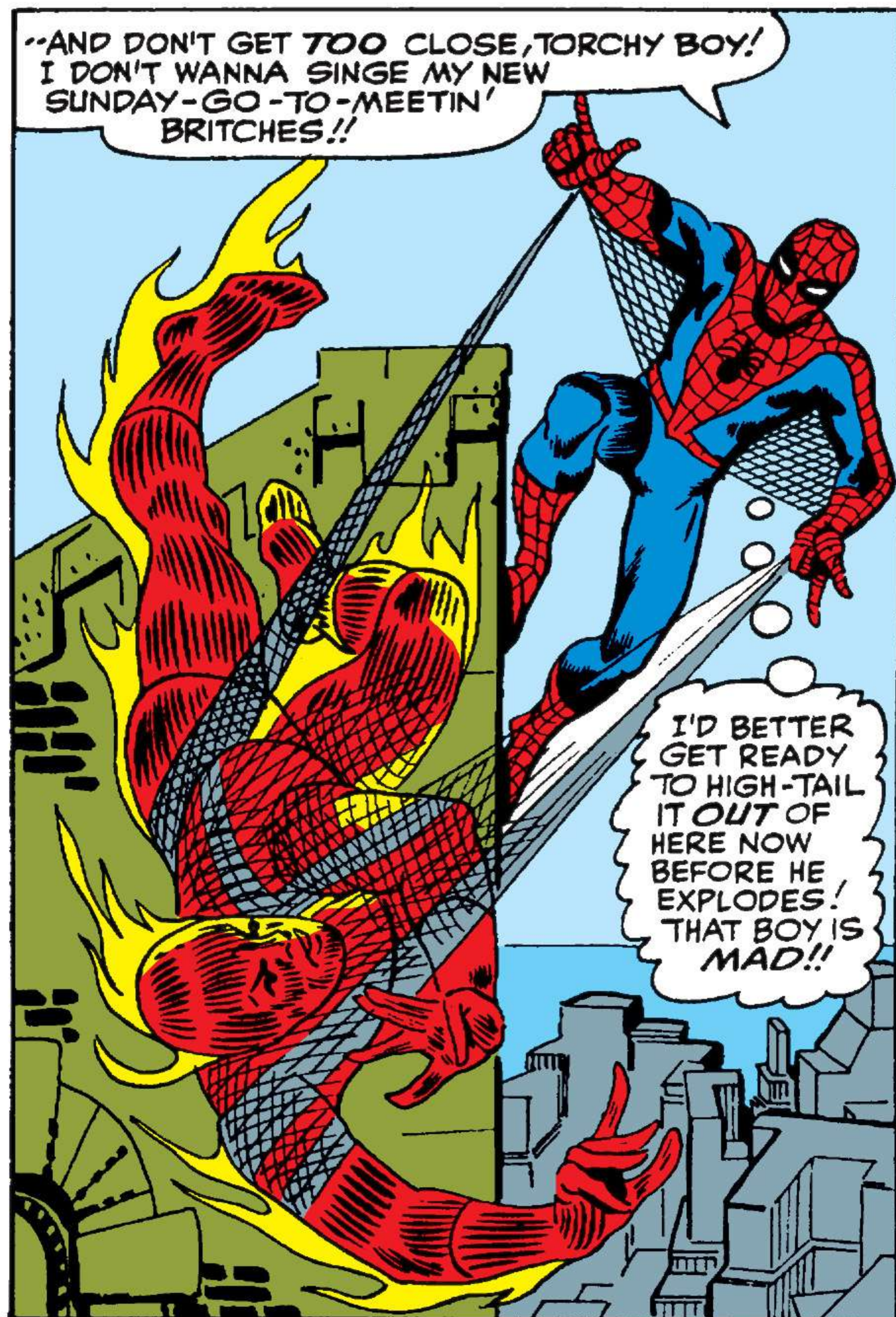
HEADS UP, **TORCHY!** YOU'RE NOT THE **ONLY BUSH-LEAGUE PITCHER** AROUND HERE! HERE'S AN **ASBESTOS WEB-BALL** TO CHEW ON FOR A WHILE!

HOPE THAT **STALLS HIM** LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO PICK UP THE **BEETLE'S** TRAIL AGAIN!

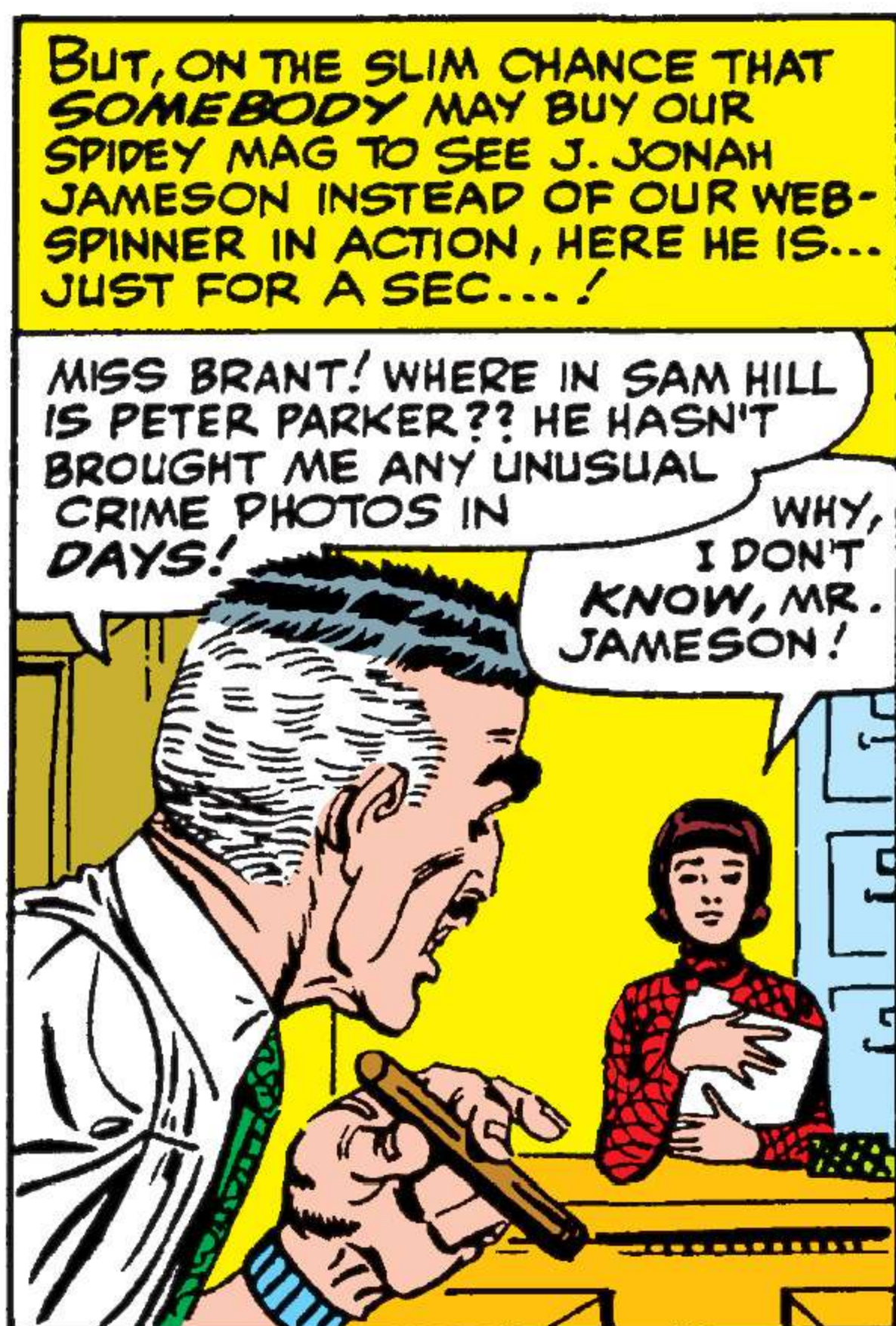
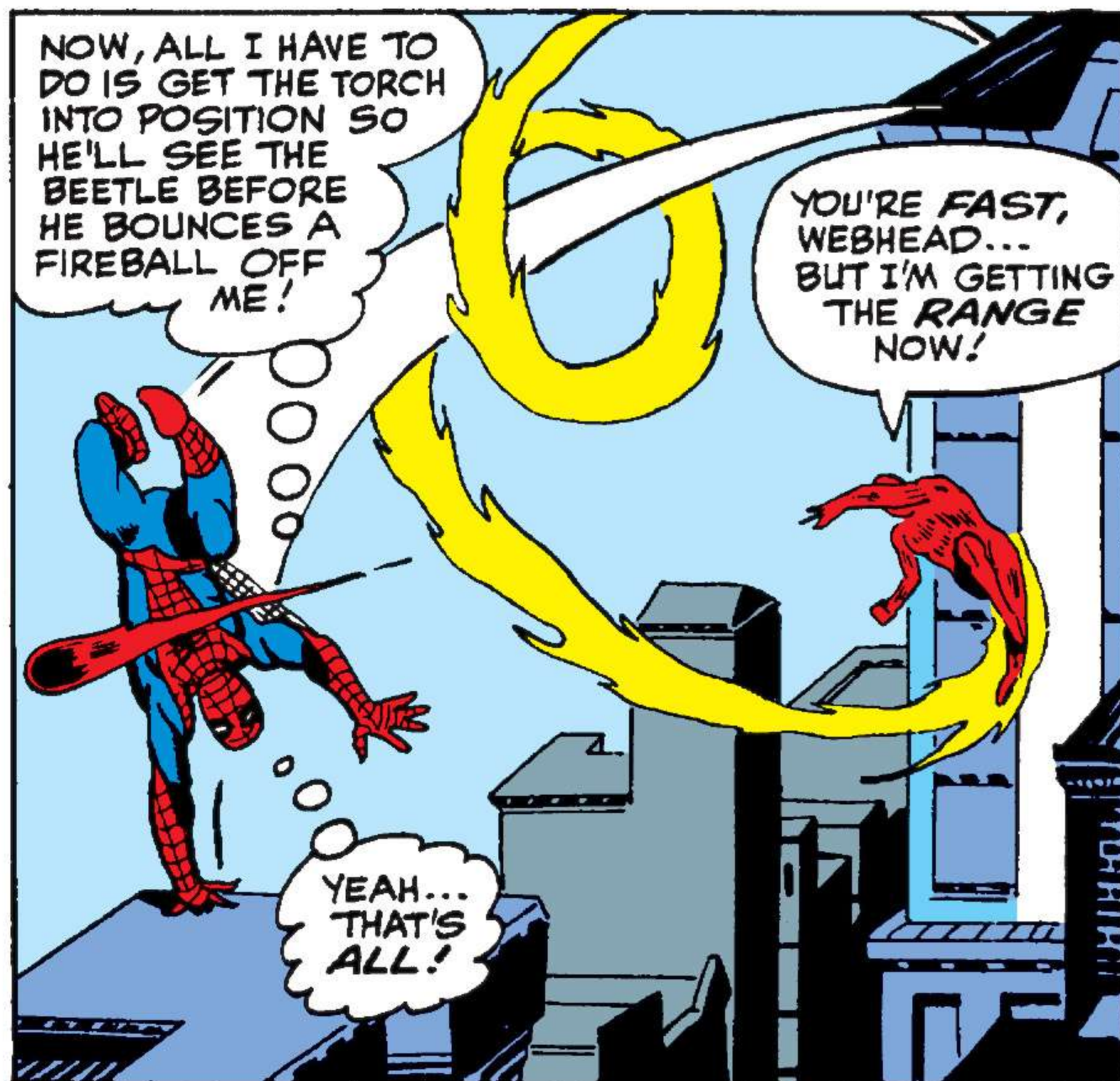
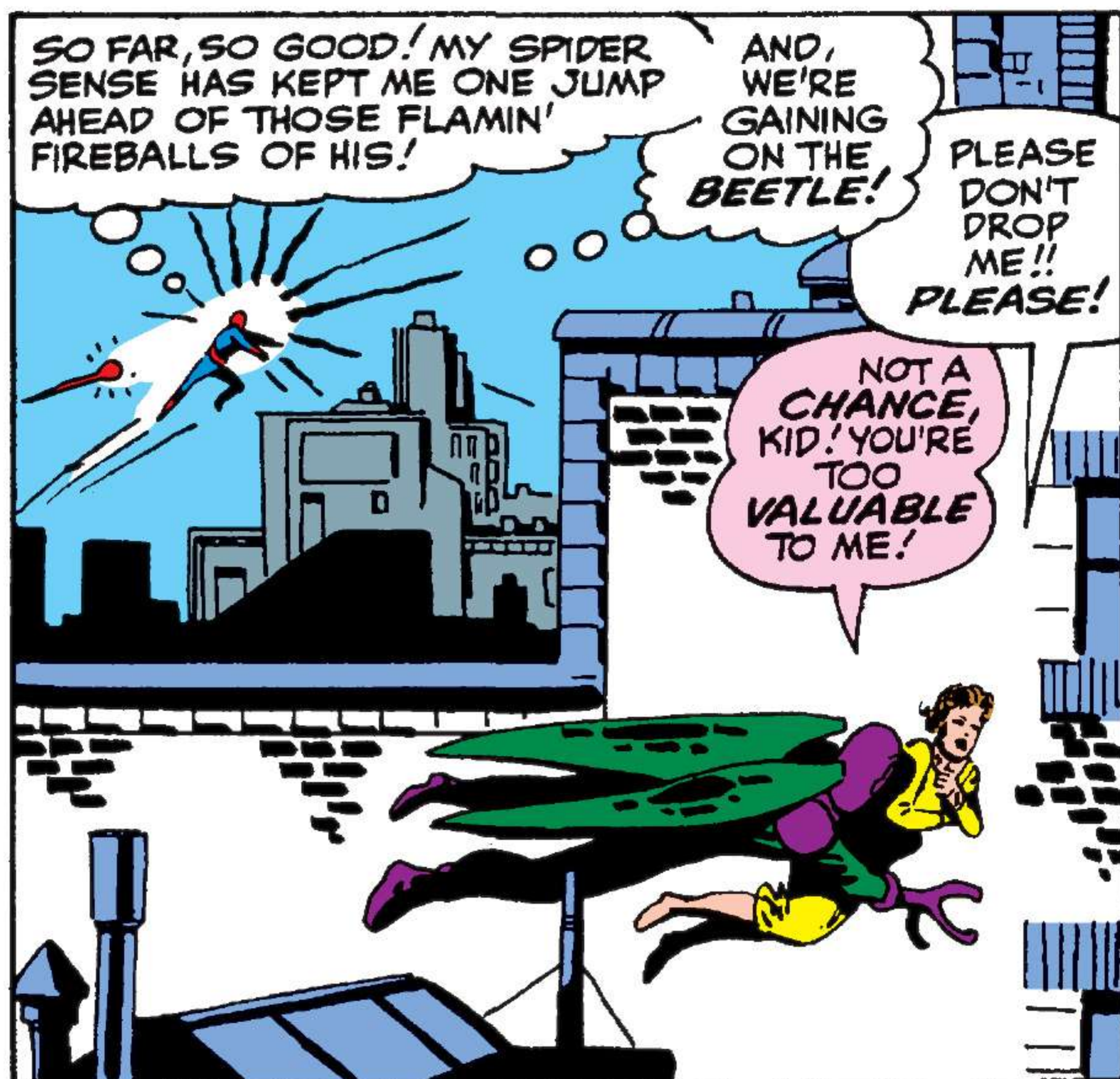
UH OH! THE **TORCH'S** HEAT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO MELT MY LITTLE **PELLETS** INTO NOTHINGNESS! HEY...WHAT'S **THAT...?**

THE **BEETLE'S** GETTING FURTHER AWAY! I'VE GOT TO GET **TORCHY** TO FOLLOW ME AFTER HIM!

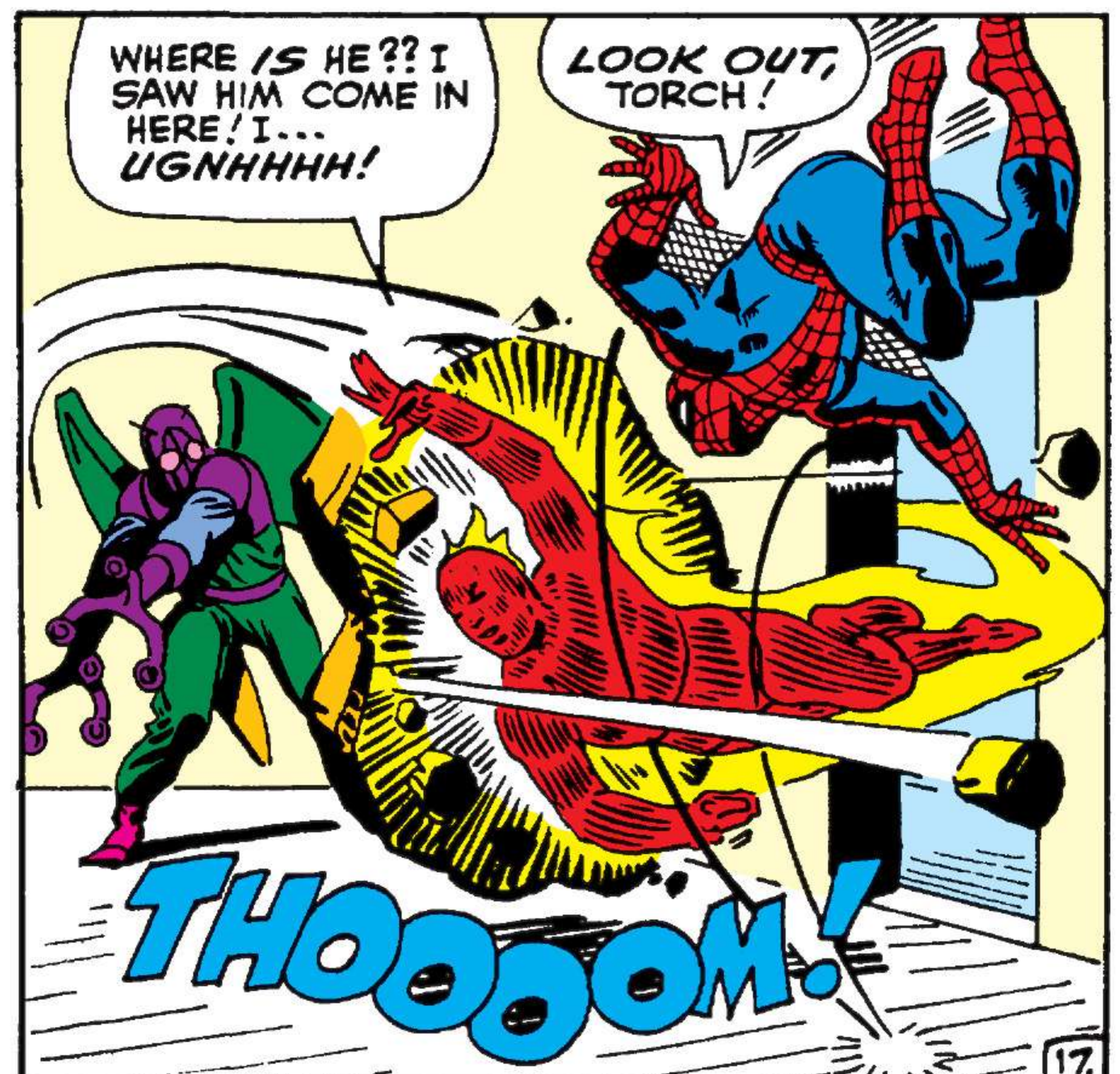
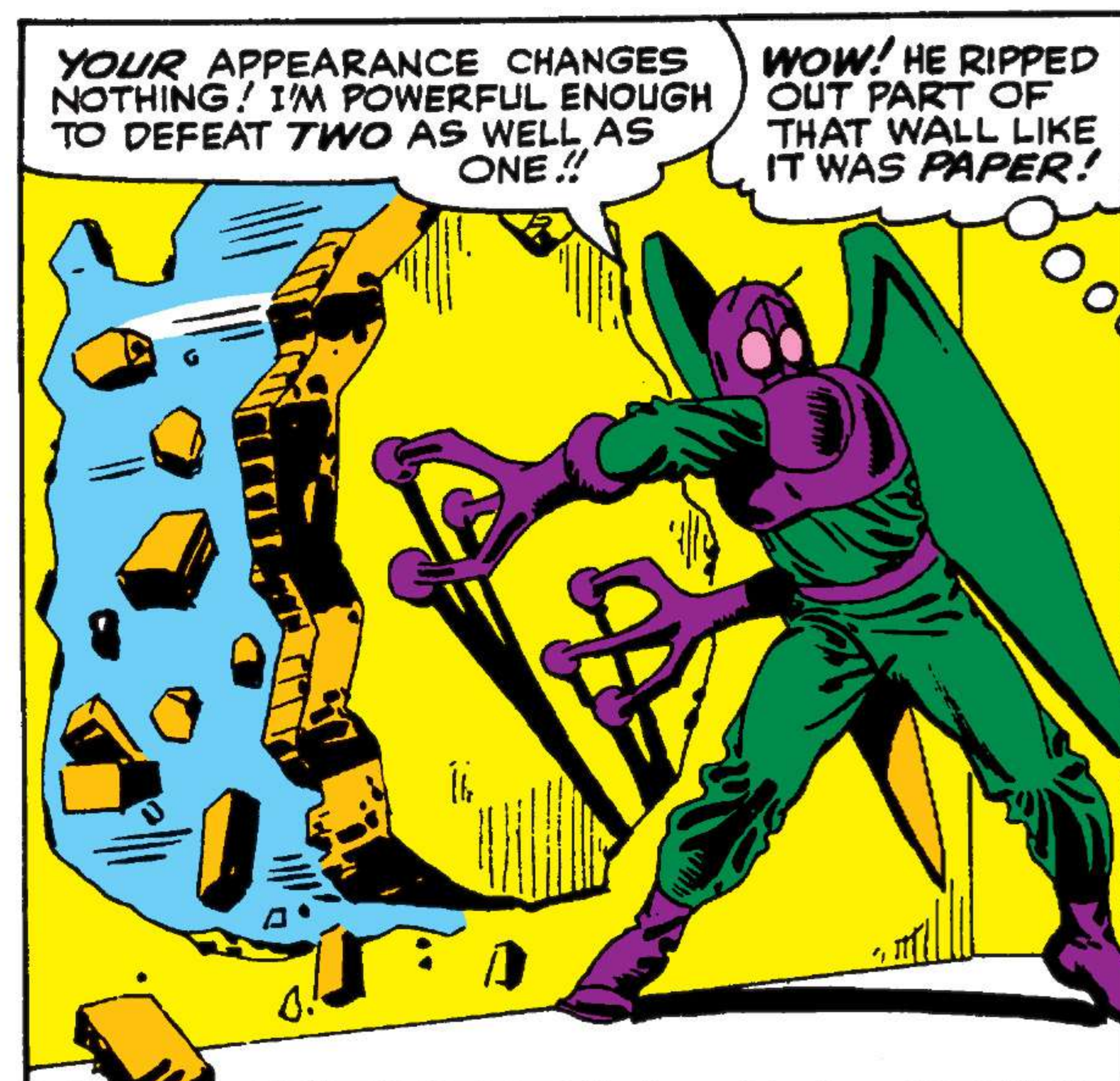
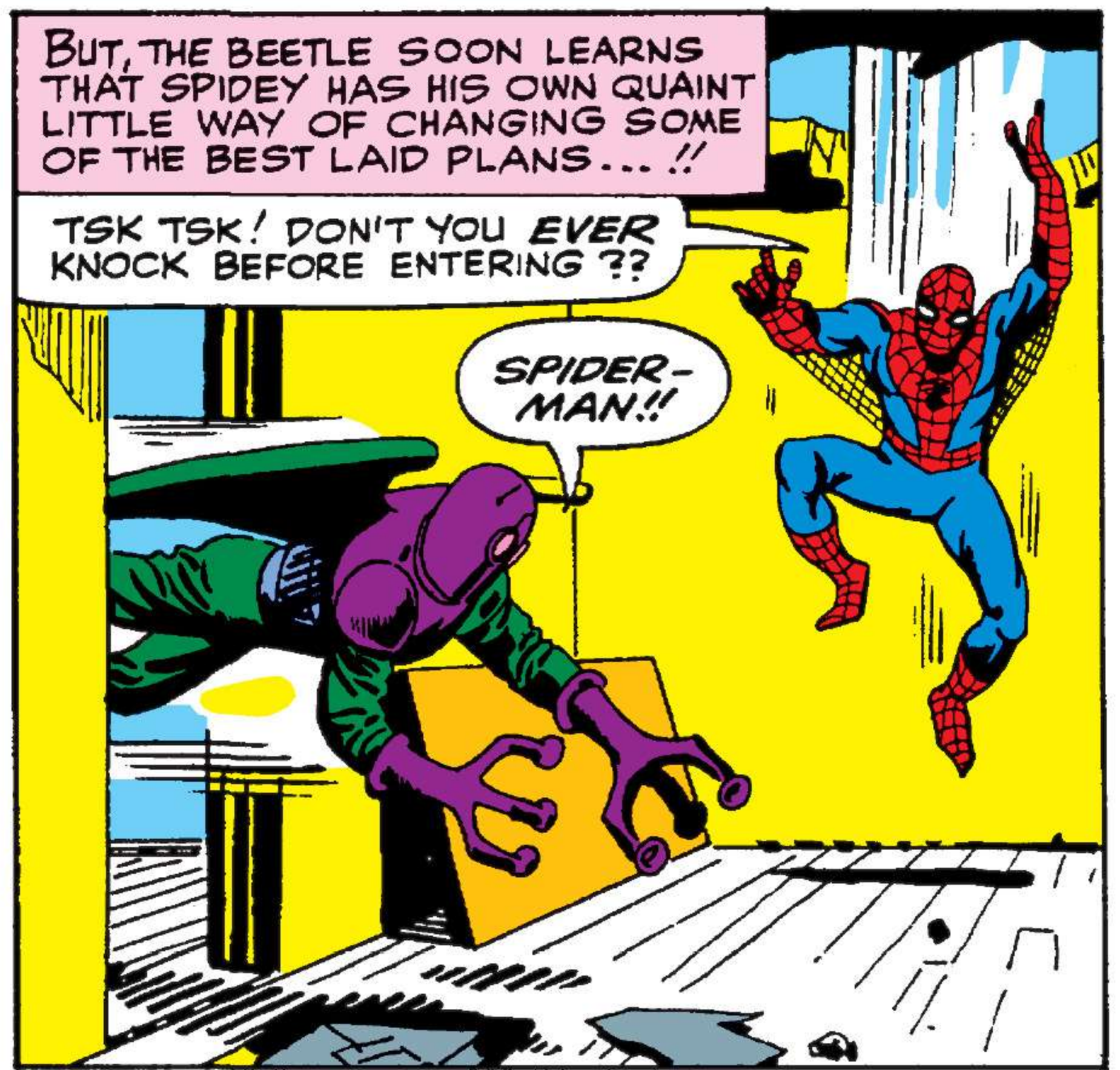
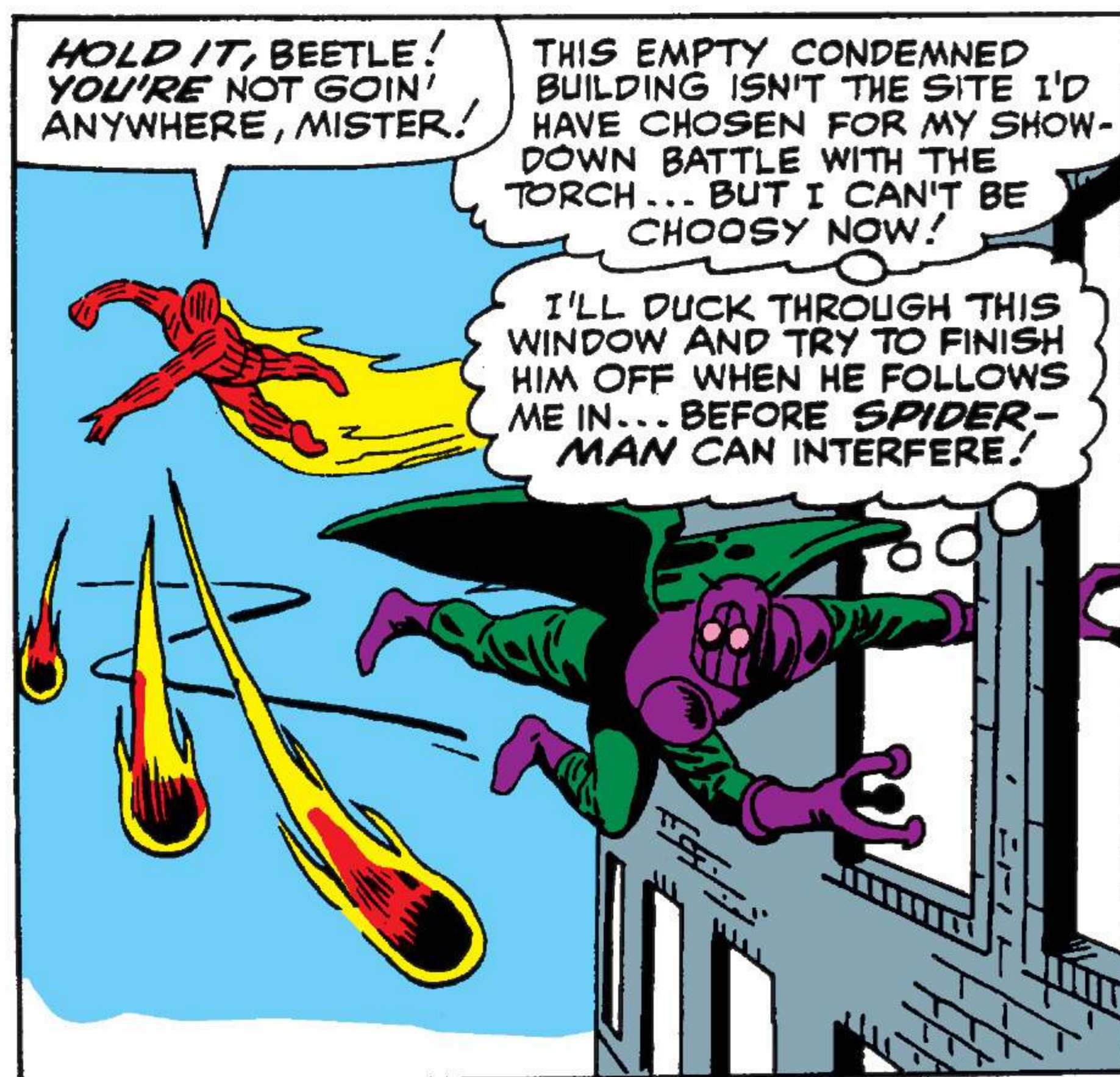
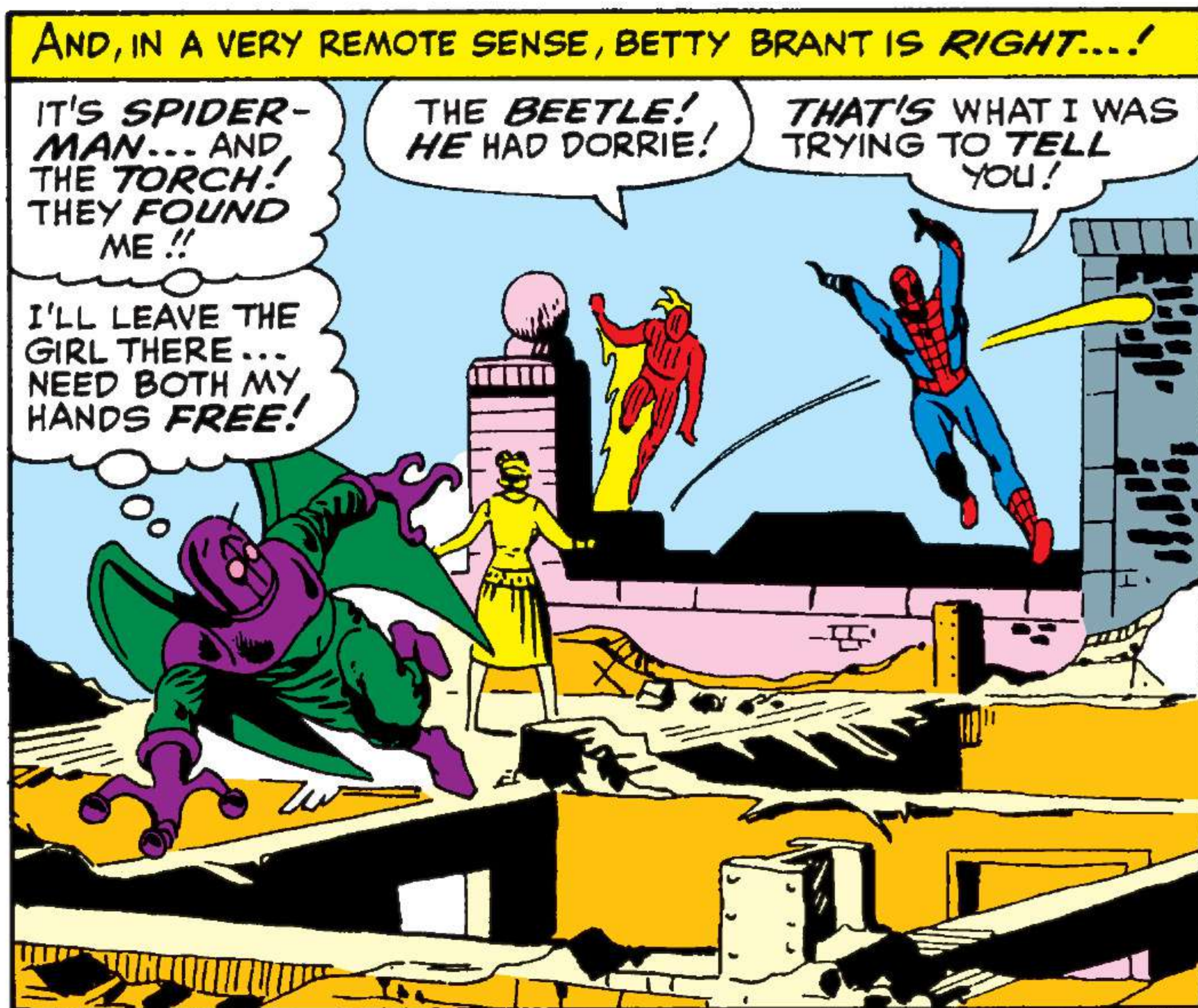




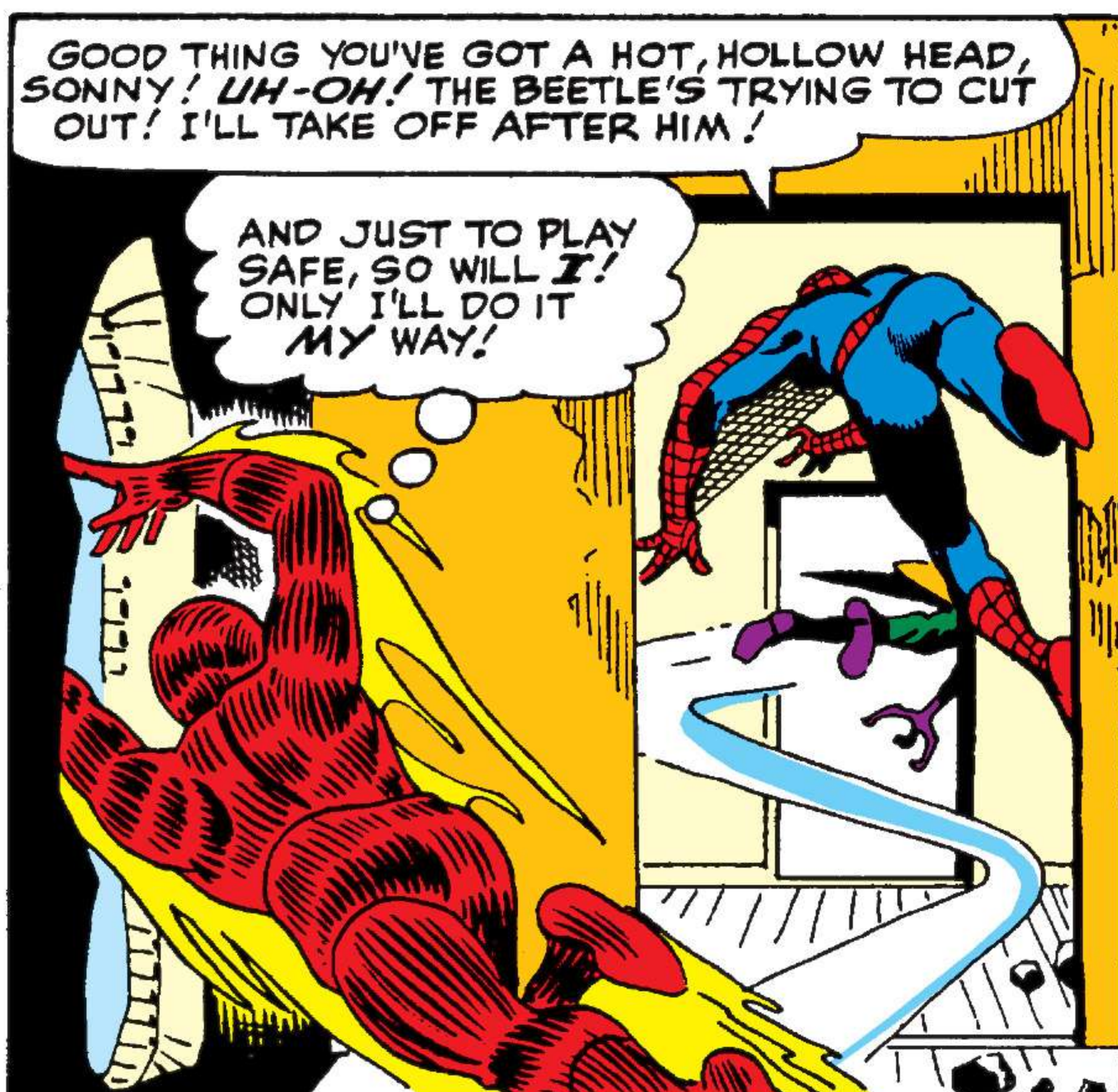








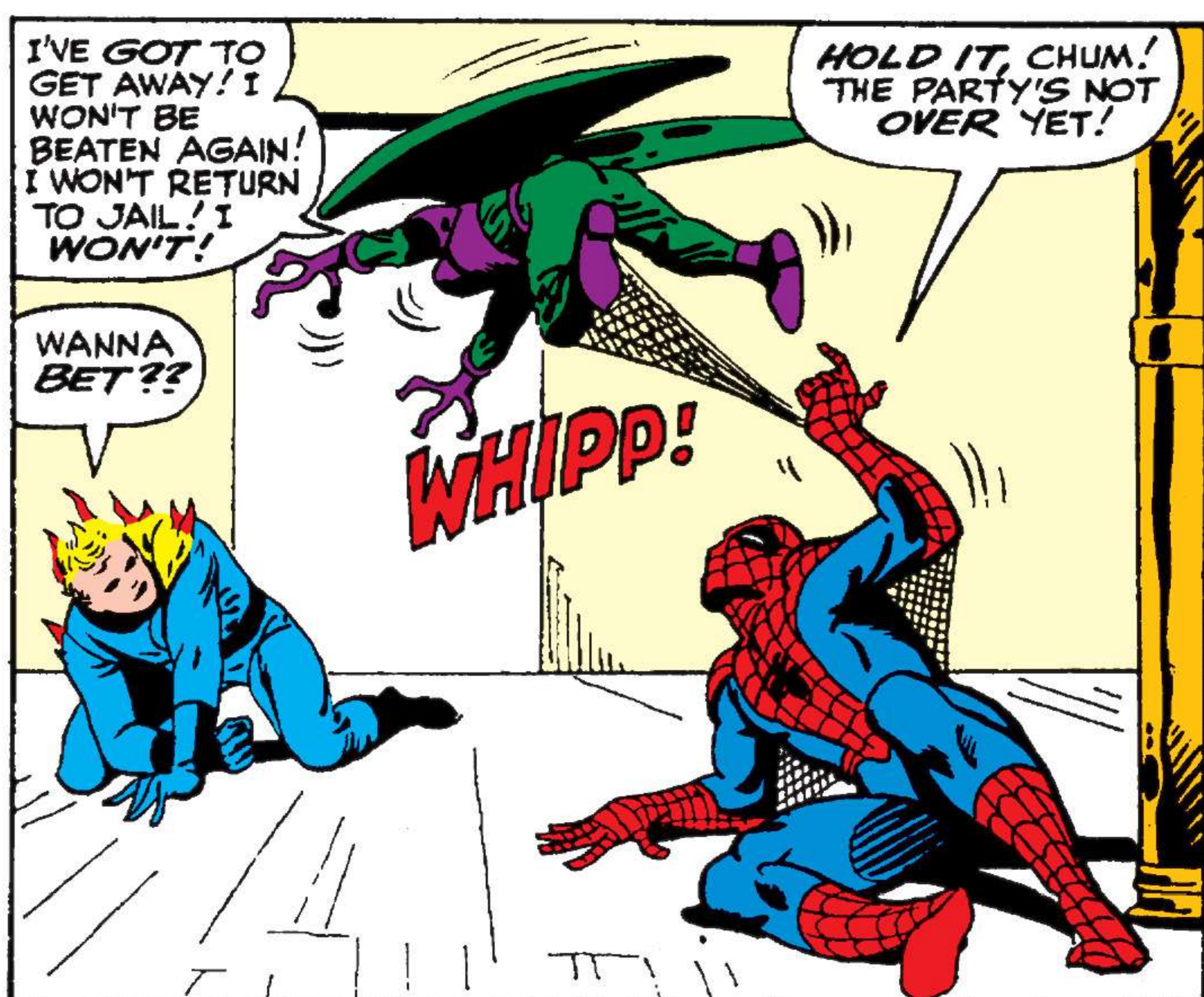
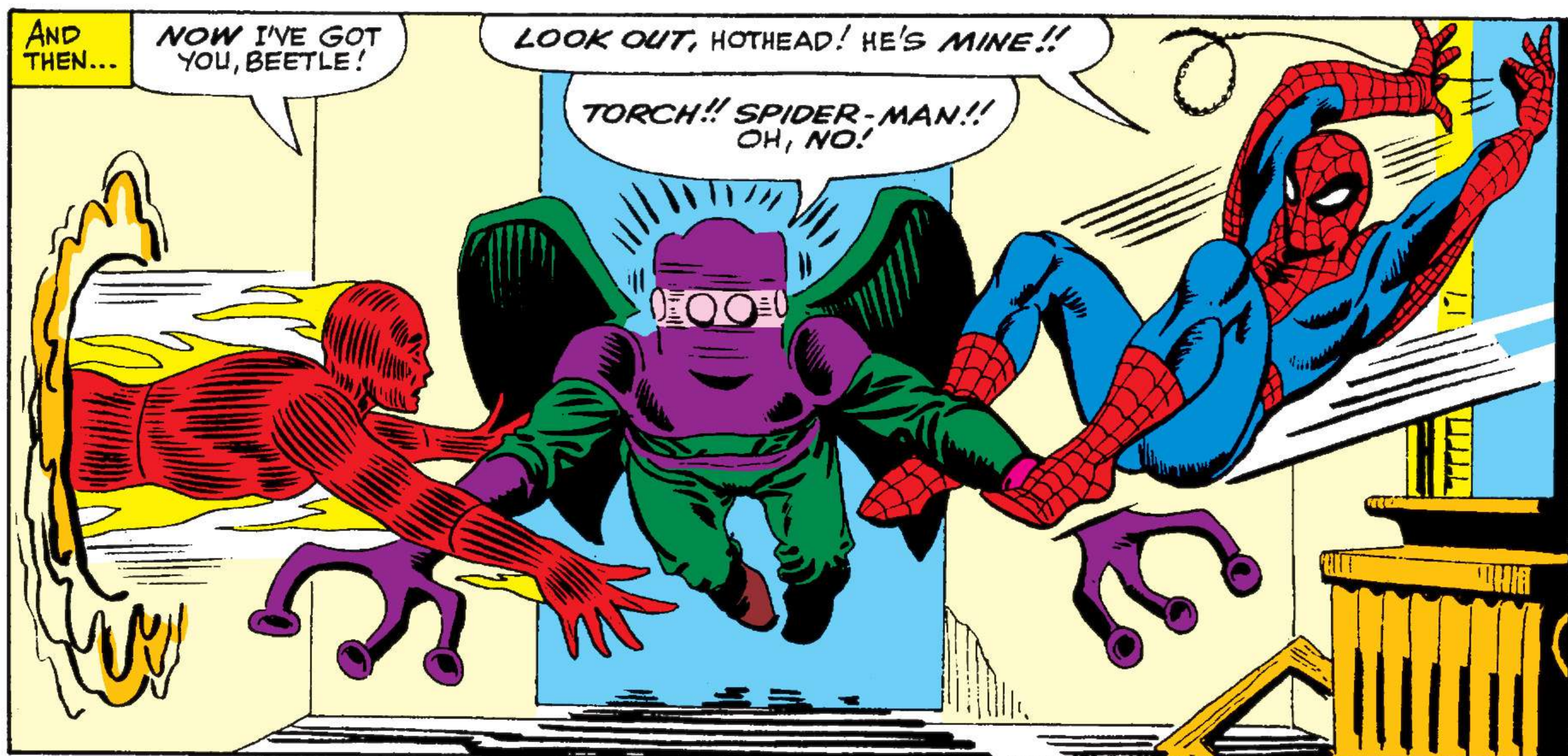




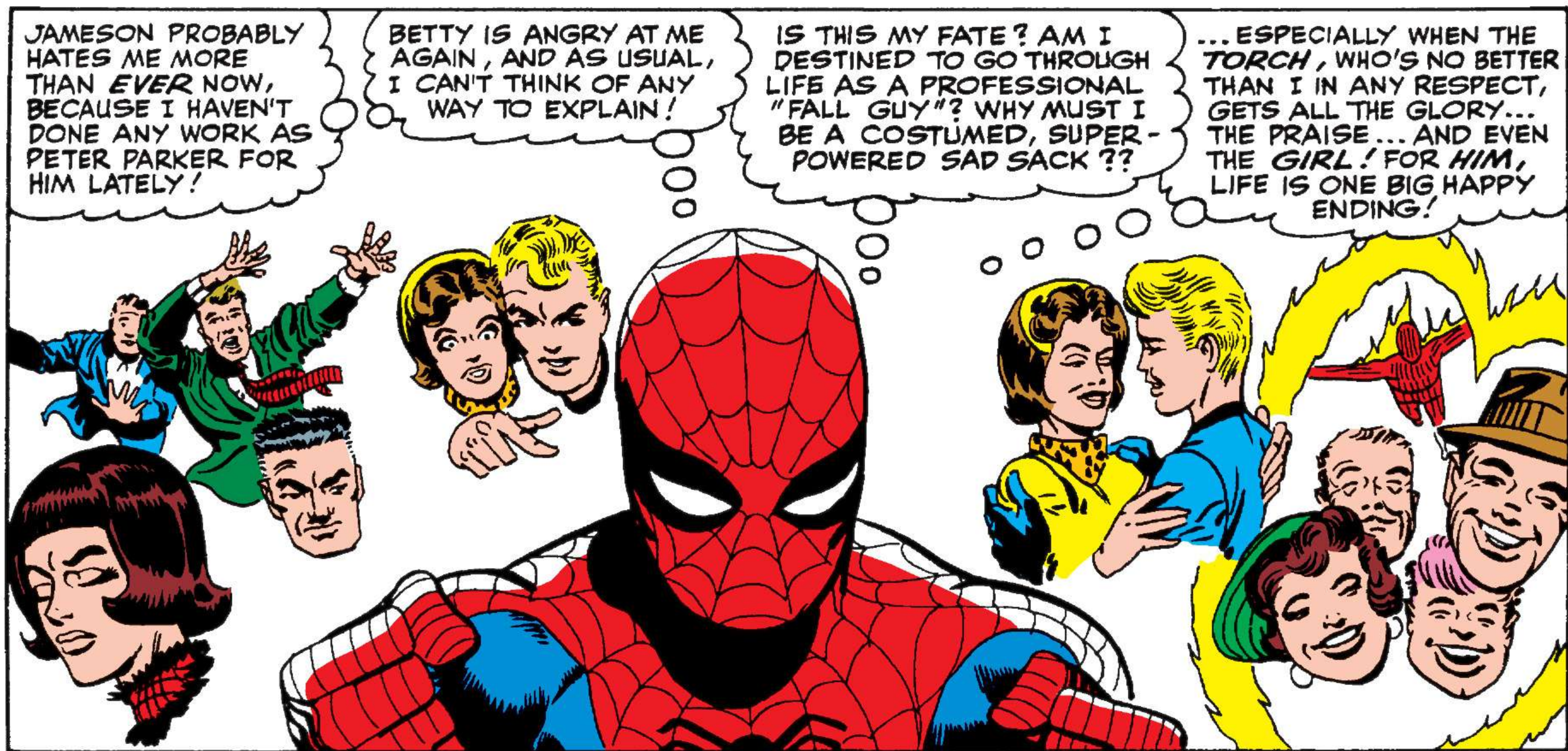
BUT, AS THE BEETLE PULLS DOWN A SECTION OF PLASTER CEILING, WITH WHICH TO SNUFF OUT THE TORCH'S FLAME, A NIMBLE, LITHE-MUSCLED FIGURE COMES HURTLING THROUGH THE OPENING...









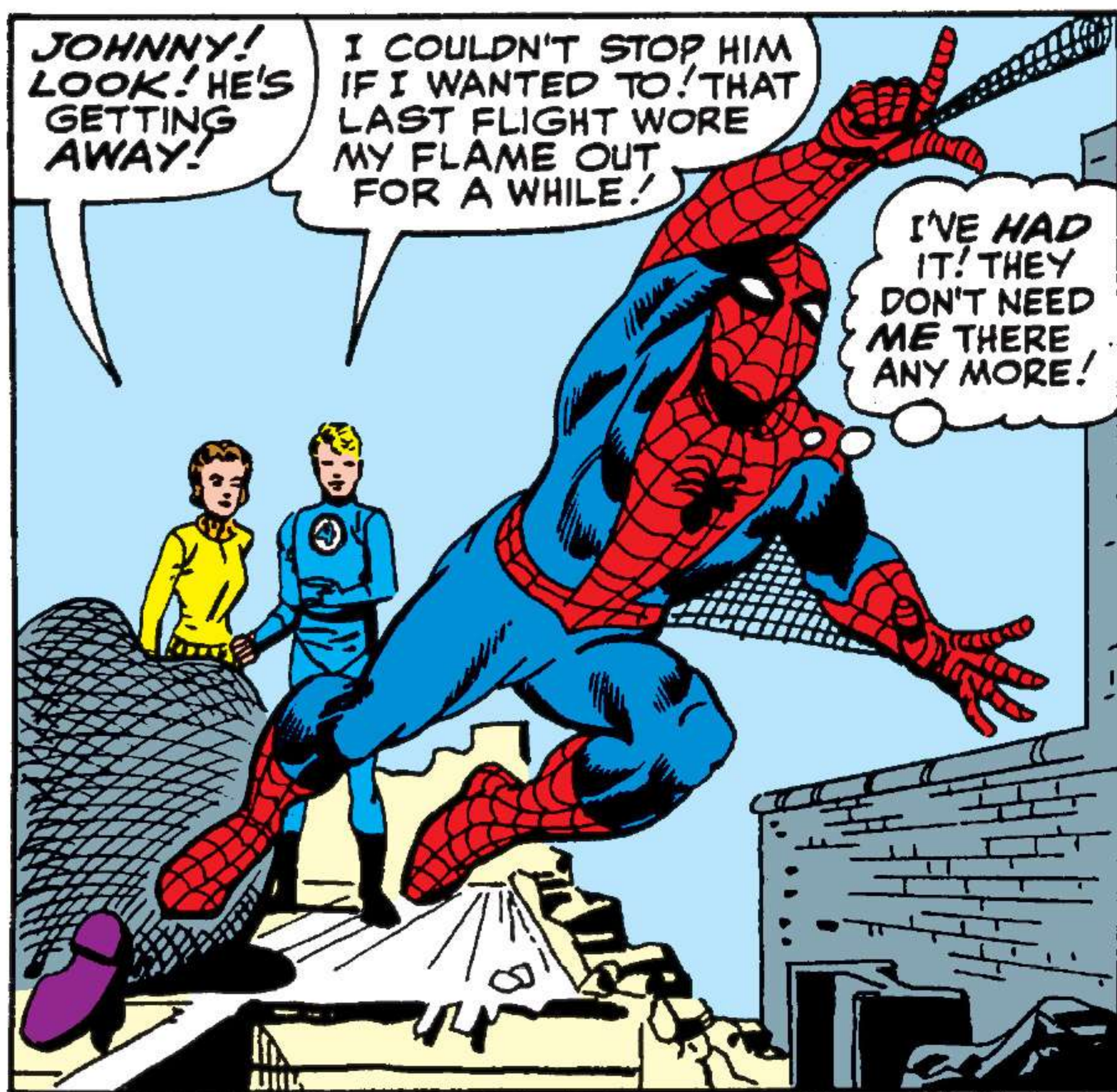


JAMESON PROBABLY HATES ME MORE THAN *EVER* NOW, BECAUSE I HAVEN'T DONE ANY WORK AS PETER PARKER FOR HIM LATELY!

BETTY IS ANGRY AT ME AGAIN, AND AS USUAL, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY WAY TO EXPLAIN!

IS THIS MY FATE? AM I DESTINED TO GO THROUGH LIFE AS A PROFESSIONAL "FALL GUY"? WHY MUST I BE A COSTUMED, SUPER-POWERED SAD SACK??

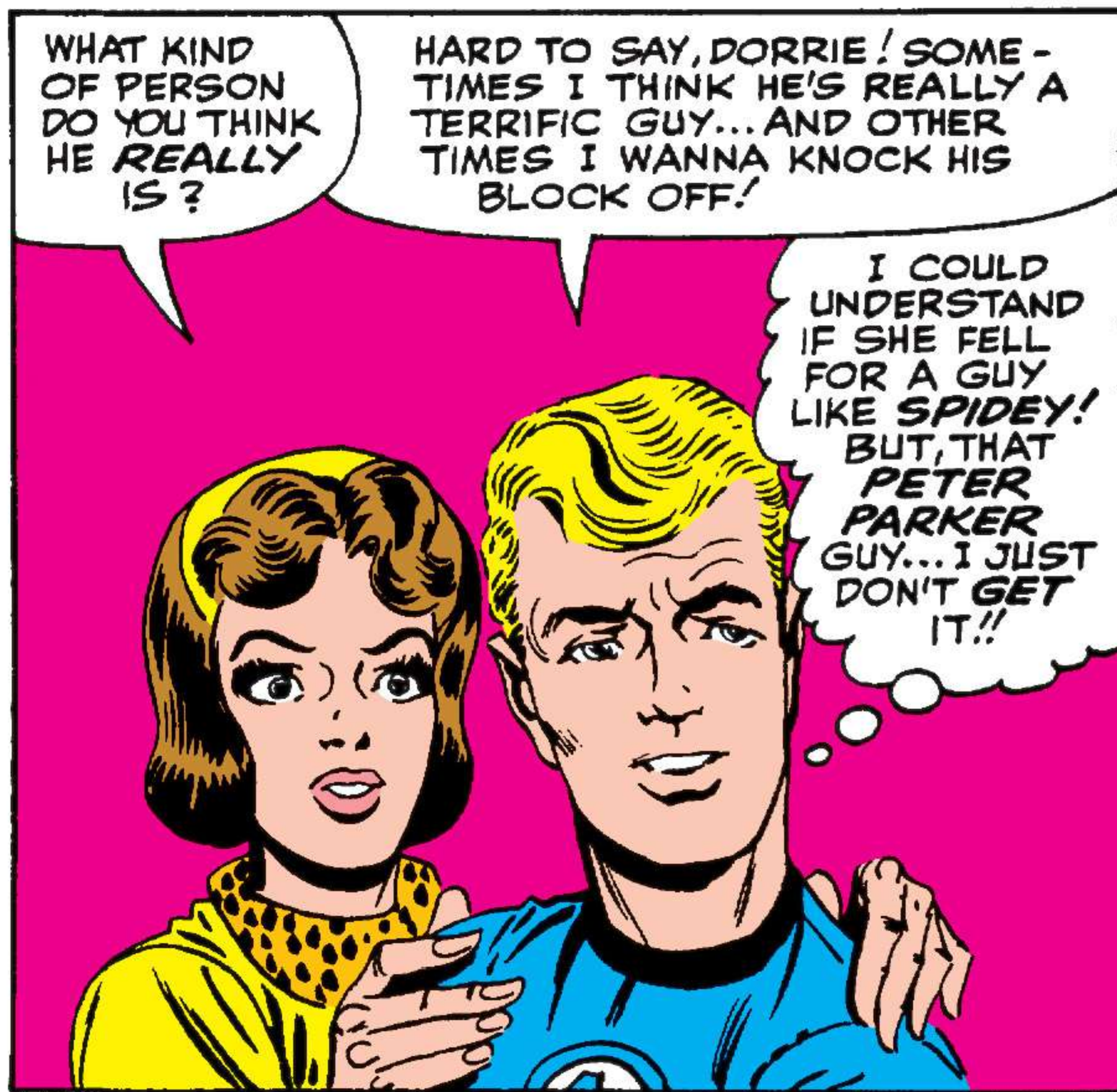
... ESPECIALLY WHEN THE *TORCH*, WHO'S NO BETTER THAN I IN ANY RESPECT, GETS ALL THE GLORY... THE PRAISE... AND EVEN THE *GIRL*! FOR HIM, LIFE IS ONE BIG HAPPY ENDING!



JOHNNY! LOOK! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

I COULDN'T STOP HIM IF I WANTED TO! THAT LAST FLIGHT WORE MY FLAME OUT FOR A WHILE!

I'VE HAD IT! THEY DON'T NEED ME THERE ANY MORE!



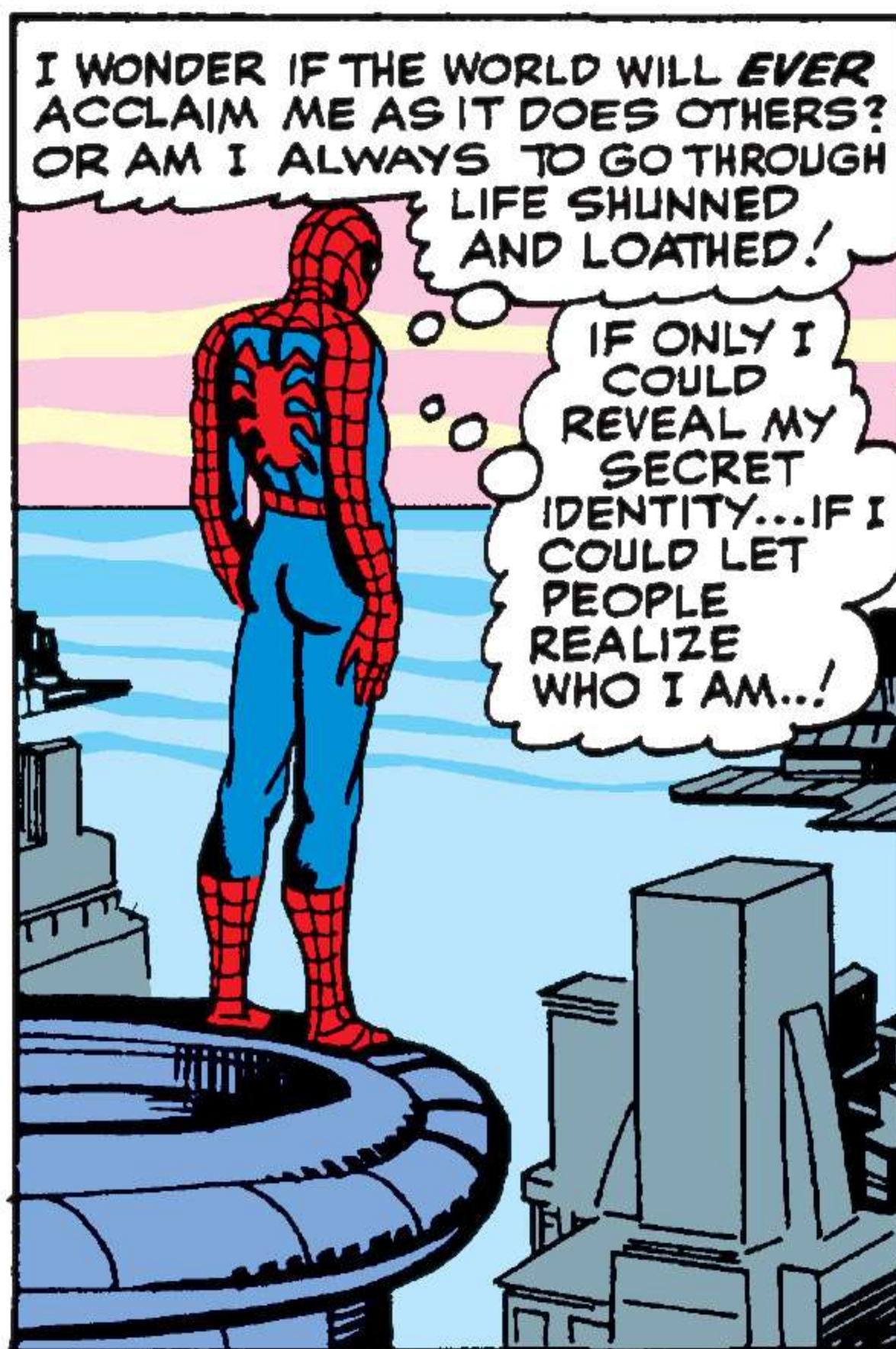
WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK HE *REALLY* IS?

HARD TO SAY, DORRIE! SOMETIMES I THINK HE'S REALLY A TERRIFIC GUY... AND OTHER TIMES I WANNA KNOCK HIS BLOCK OFF!

I COULD UNDERSTAND IF SHE FELL FOR A GUY LIKE *SPIDEY*! BUT, THAT *PETER PARKER* GUY... I JUST DON'T GET IT!!



*THIS* IS WHAT I NEED! A CHANCE TO BE ALONE... TO CLEAR MY THOUGHTS...!



I WONDER IF THE WORLD WILL *EVER* ACCLAIM ME AS IT DOES OTHERS? OR AM I ALWAYS TO GO THROUGH LIFE SHUNNED AND LOATHED!

IF ONLY I COULD REVEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY... IF I COULD LET PEOPLE REALIZE WHO I AM...!



... BUT I JUST DON'T DARE!

IF YOU ENJOYED PETEY AND HIS PALS AS MUCH AS WE HOPE YOU DID, TUNE IN AGAIN *NEXT* (SH FOR LOTS MORE OF THE SAME! HAPPY WEB-SPINNING!)



**A MARVEL MASTERWORK PiN-UP**

# SPIDER-MAN







# SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

When I first saw the cover of SPIDER-MAN #17 what a surprise I got! #17 even beat your former peak, #9. The reason I liked #9 was the human interest problems Spidey had in it. Up until now, he never had any like them again although he hasn't exactly been living the life of Riley since then. But in this ish, everything happened to him—the poor guy even lost Betty, his sole comfort in #9. Other things I enjoyed about this issue were, as usual, the art, action and humor. Also, I was glad to see the Torch finally admit that he likes Spidey. The thing I enjoyed most next to Spidey's problems was the way you completely changed the mood of the story, perhaps unconsciously. It reminded me of the word 'tragicomic' which applies to many of your stories. Finally, I have to praise you for page 22 which was undoubtedly the most dramatic comic page I've ever read. Stan, you wrote it beautifully and Steve, you portrayed perfectly the haggard Peter as his despair became deeper and deeper until, at last, he stands crushed beneath the burden of the multitude of misfortunes which have befallen him. Say, that cornballness of yours is contagious! Seriously, fellas, #17 was your best effort so far!

Brian Yates, 1094 Chestnut St.  
Newton, Mass. 02164

*And, as the sun sinks in the west, we pause to wipe away our tears of gratitude! Thanks, Brian, from a couple of cornballs to another.*

Dear Stan and Steve,

A couple of days ago I bought the latest issue of SPIDER-MAN, and, as usual, I was so deeply impressed with it that I felt I should write you about it. Then, I had the tremendous good fortune to be at the drug store at the very moment that the new magazines were delivered, among which was the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. In the preceding days I had been contemplating suicide for fear that I should miss it. I pounced upon one, and managed to escape without being mobbed. Needless to say, they were sold out in five minutes. As superb as SPIDER-MAN #16 was, I must say that it was greatly overshadowed by the first SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. I read Spidey's origin in the MARVEL TALES ANNUAL, and I must say, Steve, that your interpretation of Spider-Man has come a long way since your first efforts. This becomes extremely evident in Spidey's annual. Never had your artwork been so good. I just can't find the proper adjectives to describe accurately the fabulous full-page illustrations scattered throughout the story. In my prejudiced opinion, spectacular Steve Ditko could give Picasso a run for his money. And just so smilin' Stan doesn't feel neglected, his story was the usual fast-paced, action-packed, suspenseful, drama-charged epic that you'd expect from a literary genius. And after gazing dumbfounded at those superb pin-ups, I was wondering what more can two human beings cram into seventy-two pages. I turned the page and found out. I promptly keeled over in fits of uncontrollable laughter at the sight of a rather despondent Stan Lee being overrun by twenty-odd characters of his own creation, and a sleepy Steve Ditko being relieved of his duties by a couple of cultured spiders. Those last three pages were a real joy to read, and it gave us a glimpse of all the merry fun and games that must go on at that nuthouse that we know as the Marvel bullpen, day after day. All in all, Spidey's annual

was a smash hit with me! It's really gratifying to know that there are still such masters as you in the field, to keep the comic media in its rightful place in the literary world. So, 'till next time, take good care of yourselves; We in Marvel-land, want you two nuts around for a long, long time. Sincerely,

Keith McWalter, 2674 Lindenwood Dr.  
Bridgeville, Pa.

*Who SAYS we only print the flattering letters? Keith called us "nuts", didn't he? See how fair we are?*

Dear Stan and Steve,

It's truly the "Marvel Age" as far as comics go! We never dreamed that comics could be so completely rejuvenated by so few. We are both pre-med students at Centre College, and we just want you to know that the "Marvel Age" has become the "Marvel Rage" here. For instance: The assignment for the DKE fraternity's pledge class was to round up 30 Marvels within an hour just so the actives could read them. Not boasting, but we (the Jackson duo) have the honor of claiming the beginning of the "Marvel Rage" here at school. It all started as we sought to pass the lunch hour by buying one comic each day. Needless to say, the first Marvel put an abrupt halt to this meaningless quest. We were hooked, and the Marvel Rage had begun. Spider-Man is our favorite by far, and the X-Men are our favorite group (I know this may cause a rumbling within the Baxter Building). The greatest fight you have ever produced was between the Hulk and the Thing (more!). Captain America could become one of your best and should have his own mag. We would warn you, however, not to make your villains too unbelievable; e.g., we find it hard to believe that the Owl in DAREDEVIL #3 can glide around, especially as big as he is. In closing, we would like to commend you at Marvel for raising the comic literature to its highest level ever. Keep it up!

Elmer and John Jackson

119 W. Lex. St., Danville, Ky.

*Hey, that's kinda cute, fellas! "The Marvel Rage of Comics!" The only thing we wanna know is: Are we stealing it from you, or did you cop it from us??*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I was on board with nothing to do when a buddy gave me a few copies of your SPIDER-MAN mag. As I read them I was amazed at the quality and forethought that was put into each story. Unlike other comic heroes Spider-Man seems more realistic. I think that Spider-Man is the greatest thing that's ever happened to comic books! Would you please start publishing SPIDER-MAN mags twice a month so we won't have to wait so long for each copy!

Harry Hawkins, BM3, USS Merrick

c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Cal.

*We'd love to oblige, sailor, but if we published Spidey twice a month you'd have to wait even longer! (Mainly because how much work can a couple of guys do while they're in the hospital with nervous breakdowns?)*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I immensely enjoy your magazines. Your characters have a depth and humanity unequalled and almost unchallenged by other magazines. For this reason they are ever new! Moreover, they have an intellectual content unmatched in comicdom. However, I was quite disappointed with your revelation as to why J. Jonah Jame-

Continued...



son hates Spider-Man. To quote from J.J.J.'s speech, "All my life I've been interested in only one thing—making money! And yet, Spider-Man risks his life day after day with no thought of reward! If a man like him is good—a hero—then what am I?" I ask by what standard may J.J.J., a producer, be said to be less moral or even immoral in comparison with Spider-Man. How can J. Jonah Jameson, who has provided work for hundreds or thousands and news for millions, be said to be immoral? Why has a man that has amassed a fortune solely through providing the news faster, cheaper, more concisely, and more accurately than any other source accepted a standard of morality that holds his production, his virtue to be evil? Money is not a tool of the looters or the moochers; it is a tool of the producers. To be able to say that one has made money is to pay oneself the highest possible compliment. If J. Jonah Jameson can truly say that he made money, he may walk tall.

John Bailey, 220 N. North St.  
Washington C.H., Ohio

*Why do WE have to get stuck with all the erudite, intelligent fans? Why can't we have some nice, simple, uncomplicated readers who aren't philosophy majors? Anyway, Johnny boy, you've got us all wrong—never let it be said that the guys in the bullpen are anti-money! We don't knock ourselves out this way just to keep Artie Simsek happy!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think SPIDER-MAN #17 is truly one of the many Marvel Masterpieces of this year. Steve's Green Goblin drawings were better than ever. In reading #17 and other Spidey mags, I have noticed something which deserves attention, namely Aunt May's persistent efforts to get Peter to date Mary Jane Watson. I personally think this adds to your mag, and hope you continue it. All in all, I have only one question: On page 11 Flash calls Liz Allen's father "Mr. Brant". If he is Liz's father, wouldn't his name be Allen, too?

Walt Clevensine, 711 Arch St.  
Spring City, Pa.

*Y'know, Walt, if only all our characters could be named Jones, life would be so much simpler! Sure, you're right—as were the zillion other web-spinners who wrote in to tell us of that same typically Marvel bonehead mistake! Can you imagine if we were punished for lettering mistakes in our mags? The whole blamed bullpen would be doing life in Alcatraz right now!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have written to praise Stan on all his stories and to bury Steve for his little boo-boo in SPIDER-MAN #17. It happened on page 17 in the first panel. Steve shows Spidey making a quick change to Peter Parker but he forgot to put on his shoes which he wears as Peter. Then as Peter ran out of the club to change back to Spidey, he still didn't have his shoes on, just his Spider-Man footwear. I don't think this is enough of a mistake to warrant any panic, but I did need an excuse to write to you swell guys. I also want to say that I enjoy seeing new villains as well as having the old ones return. I don't think subscriptions should be so high for us Canadian fans. \$3.25 is O.K. if you live somewhere in France or Turkey but not as close as Canada!

John Gilbert, 985 Dundas Hwy. West.  
Cooksville, Ontario, Canada

*As far as we know, Johnny, Canadian subs are \$1.75, same as American ones. Better check into it again, hear?*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have been reading SPIDER-MAN and FF since their first issues. I have come to like the 'Thing very much and think he should be able to change to Ben at will—just like the other three FF members can. I didn't like the way you treated Spider-Man in issue #17 where he became a coward in the eyes of the public. I didn't like that at all. Now he'll have a hard time getting folks to like him. His aunt is a sick old lady whom he loves very much, and Mr. Jameson gives him such a hard time. I want him to be liked by the public in the same way your other heroes are liked. So don't hurt Spider-

Man again—please! I'm 25 years old and would like to read happier things about Spider-Man. He's a good guy who's trying to help his aunt and go to school. Let the public like him!

Charles Harris, Jr., 1289 Chisholm St.  
Bronx 59, N.Y.

*We'll try, Charlie—honest! But, being kinda practical, it's more important to us that you READERS like him!*

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION

—Never let it be said that we merry Marvel madmen don't listen to all you frantic fans! Our tale this ish was specially produced in answer to a flood of mail demanding more adventures of Spidey fighting either with or against our human matchstick! We sure hope you all liked it—but if you didn't, don't blame us! It's your fault! You asked for it!

—By the way, Peter Parker makes probably the briefest guest appearance in history in this month's FANTASTIC FOUR. (#35). Be sure not to sneeze when you're reading the part where Petey appears, or you'll miss him, completely!

—We still get a whole kaboodle of letters each month telling us to keep Spidey a loner—just as we get mail ordering us to team him up with everybody and anybody you can think of! But, so far, the ratio is overwhelmingly in favor of keeping him by himself, except for occasional guest appearances. So, it looks as though the F.F., the AVENGERS, X-MEN, etc. will just have to struggle along without him for a while!

—Remember the time (we think it was in ish #17) that someone said our villains had too many gimmicks? We said we'd leave it up to you to decide. Well, according to the letters that followed, most of you like Spidey's little sparring partners just the way they are. How's that for an earth-shattering bit of information!

#### A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now! THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #35:** Leave it to the world's greatest mag to come up with another of the world's greatest new arch-foes! This ish has everything! The F.F. go to college! They fight Dragon Man! And they again face the deadly Diablol!

**AVENGERS #12:** America's mightiest super-hero team finds itself battling one of the world's strangest menaces, with the fate of all mankind hinging on the outcome! And guess who the two surprise villains are! **X-MEN #9:** We wish there were new adjectives to describe this one! It features both the X-Men AND the Avengers! Also, for the first time, you'll see the eerie Lucifer! And be prepared for anything when Professor X gets back into action!

**THOR #112:** All we have to tell you is—Thor fights the Hulk! It's the kind of action you want, written the way you like it, and drawn by jolly Jack Kirby, the action king himself! It's the greatest battle since the Hulk fought the Thing!

**STRANGE TALES #129:** This is really "villains month" at Marvel! This time the Torch and bashful Benjamin fight some baddies who call themselves "The Terrible Trio!"—and Dr. Strange is up against a newie named Tiboro who's as as kookie as he sounds!

**SUSPENSE #62:** This is it at last! The startling, long-awaited Origin of the Mandarin! And wait till you see how Iron Man escapes ol' Mandy this time! As for Captain America, the poor guy is trying to stop a jailbreak singlehanded! And, if anybody can do it—!

**ASTONISH #64:** See Giant-Man fight none other than Attuma, the sensational menace of F.F. #33! This is a different type of thriller for high-pockets and the wonderful Wasp! Meanwhile, the Hulk is again attacked by the mysterious Leader and his horde of humanoid! No wonder he goes on a rampage!

**SGT. FURY AND HIS YOU-KNOW-WHO'S #14:** This one's a block-buster! For the first time, Fury and his happy heroes go up against a deadly blitzkrieg squad, specially trained to destroy the Howlers! It's a trap that only Baron Strucker could devise, and Fury's fanatics charge right into it! Wow!

—We haven't seen the sketches for SPIDER-MAN #22 yet, but Stan and Steve have been walking around chuckling to themselves and patting each other on the back for days! So they must have something pretty special cooked up. Anyway, when those two characters go to town, how bad can it be? So live dangerously...try us again next ish! Who knows—you might even like it!

*We give up! Now that all our mags have letters pages, we get so much mail that we just can't send cards in answer to your letters any more! But, you know we're reading them—and that's what counts!*